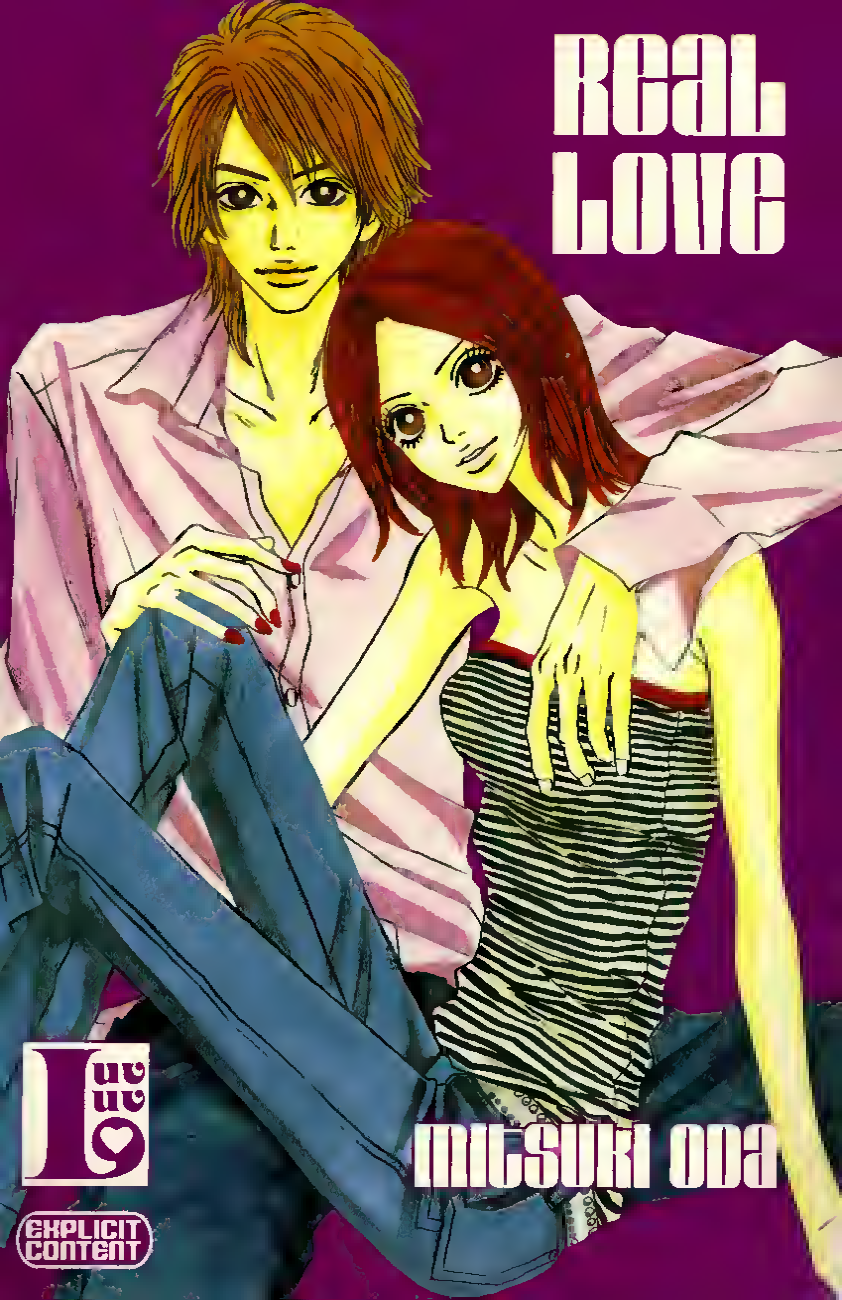
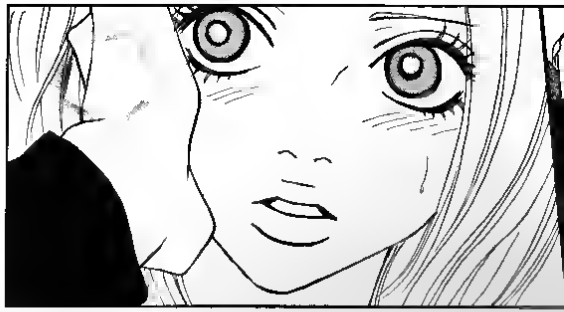
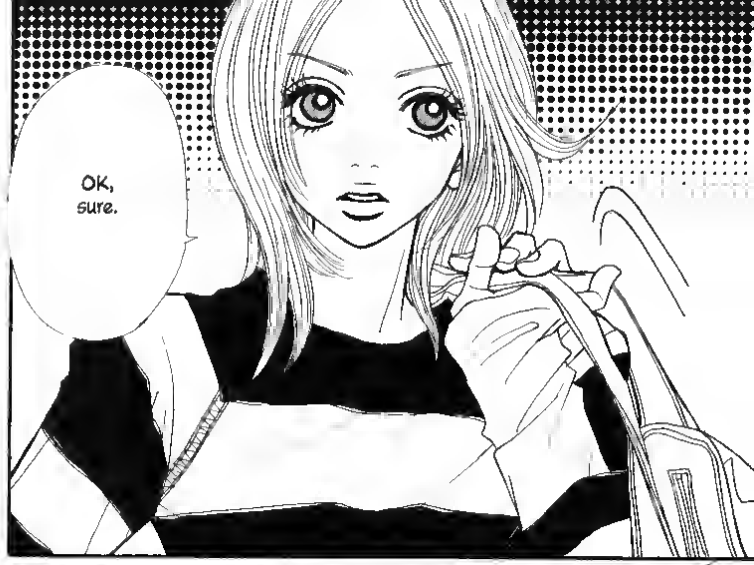

Real Love
Luv
EXPLICIT CONTENT
Mitsuki Oda

REAL
LOVE
CHAPTER ONE

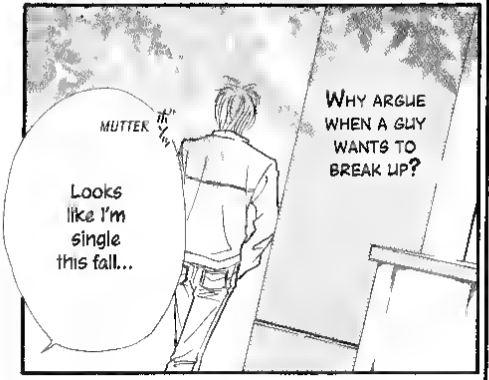
Relationships are pretty simple.
If "like" is the beginning, "hate" is the end.
What did you want to tell me?
FWOOOOO
...should break up.
But I think we..
Well, it's kind of hard...
...since I'm the one who asked you out, three months ago.



Oh, there's someone there...
A couple?
In the bushes?
Huh?
But I'm not...
I'm not good enough for you. I don't have anything...
...
Don't you love me?
You'll always have me, you know.
That's all I want from you.
Talk about cheesy!
I think I'm gonna hurl!
I wonder what that guy looks like!!
tump tump tump

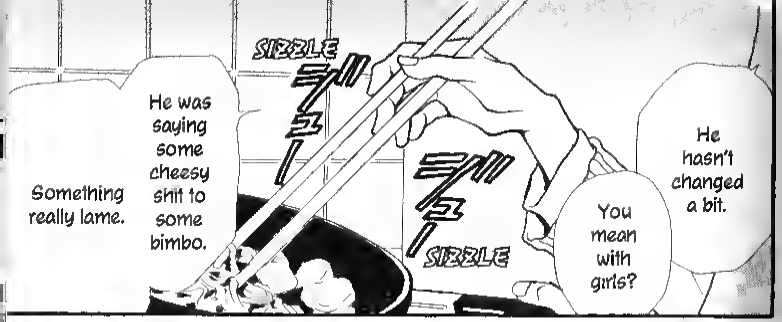

OK, sure.

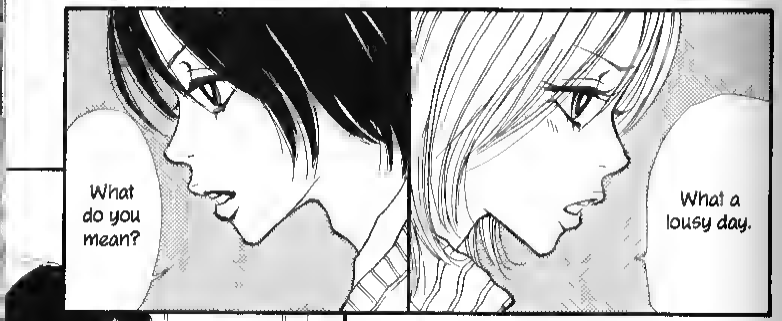
Um, OK. Bye!


Why argue when a guy wants to break up?
mutter
Looks like I'm single this fall...

What?!
That's it?!
Well, I don't wanna make a scene.
Really?!

Cut!
WHY IS HE AT MY SCHOOL?
DASH
ダッ!
...
What happened?
Why were you yelling?
I'm sorry...
Hey, wait!
Shu, right?
Naomichi!
We have to do another take. You need to nail it this time.
WHY?
Shu...?
No...
NO WAY!


SIZZLE
SIZZLE
He was saying some cheesy shit to some bimbo.
Something really lame.
You mean with girls?
He hasn't changed a bit.


What do you mean?
What a lousy day.

Don't worry. Even if you're single for the rest of your life, I'll take care of you.
So go right ahead and break up with all of your boyfriends.
KA-CHAK
Urk...
Running into him...
...or breaking up with your boyfriend?
How did you know we broke up?
"Twinstinct," Sis.
I just guessed. It was getting to be about that time.

At our school?
Maybe you mixed him up with someone else.

SIZZLE
SIZZLE
Oh, now I get it...
So he is alive.
But it's gotta be him!
I just ran away
He looks good.

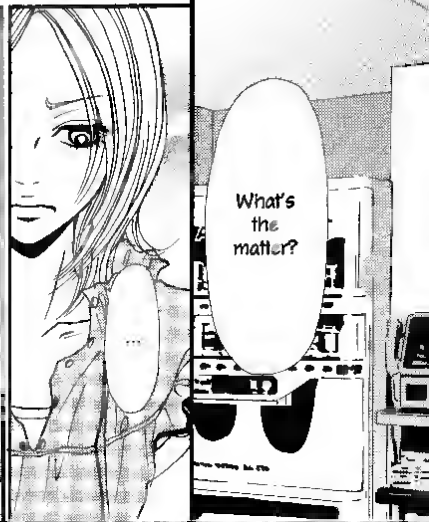
Nail it...?
OK.

DA-DUM...
Da...
What's up?
Why'd you run off the other day?
It's over, anyway. It's not like it'll start up again.
Huh?
Wow, he's tall...!!
KYU!!
THUMP

#7 11/ STAB
Seems like...
...you don't have any instinct...
...or luck with men, anyway.

Huh?
You keep looking around.
Am I acting weird?
Yeah, for like the last three days.

I DON'T WANNA RUN INTO HIM AGAIN, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE IN THE SAME COLLEGE.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR SO LONG.
AND...


I DON'T... WHAT?
What's the matter?
...

You've got it all wrong. I don't sleep around like I used to.
...I was just shooting a scene for the film club.
HEH HEH
Besides ...

Hey! That guy looks like Sunao Sata!
The actor
So... WHO WAS THAT GIRL?
SHOOTING A SCENE?

He can't really be Sunao Sata...
...
Oh, yeah...

WHISPER
...the son of Kyoko Hasegawa ...
...and Naoya Sata?
Yeah, he does!
WHISPER

You haven't changed at all in three years.

What a dull group of girls
Oh, so...
I had one until right before I saw you!
...you still don't have a boyfriend?

HEH

What's so funny?
HEH
What do you mean "never mind"?
Nah, never mind.
HEH
HEH

HA
HA
HA!!
...
...

HALT
ピタ!
Oh, I forgot to tell you...
You look pretty.
Omigod! What was *that* all about?!
Omigod, omigod!
Who *was* that?
Ooh ...
Well, gotta go!
.....
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
Well um

I hope he drops dead.
I know that actor.
Sometimes people think I'm him.
It's a bummer though. That guy's a jerk.
Who's staring?
Don't stare at me! ♡ You'll burn a hole in my shirt!
HM? はっ!
穴
HOLE
LOOKING...
...FOR *ME*?
The clubhouse is on the north side of campus. Come see me. I'll be there all afternoon.
I don't care...
where you'll be!
Gotta go before my carriage turns back into a pumpkin.
Hmph
Don't get so mad. I've been looking for you for three days.
like Marco Polo, or something

BUSTLE
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
He isn't in any movies these days...
Yeah, he got into a lot of trouble.
Your ex-boyfriend is so right about him.
Plus he looks like a movie star! ♡
For real
Yeah, like Sunao Sata. Remember him?

Looks like he still likes you!
Don't you like him too? ♡
Tee hee..
PAT PAT
Huh?
Shu!
Well.. We've never seen you get so mad before.
Especially in front of a guy!
What?!
OH, YEAH. WHY DID HE SAY THAT?
NAOMICHI...
Are you two gonna get back together?

Your ex?!
It's ancient history.
Omigod!! I wish I had an ex like that! ♡
He called you pretty!
...

You guys have been together... what? A year?
Why don't you just back off Shu?!
Right, Miki?
So what if we're together all the time?
Wait! Shun!
Wait for me!
Whoa!
What's his problem?
Are they breaking up?
I don't think so...
I was gonna ask you...

Oh?
I just saw him.
Hm, who?
Naomichi.
Oh. It's your twin brother.
Hello
Hi.
Hi there, Miki.
Oh! Still joined at the hip, huh?
Feek
Did you guys talk?
What did he say?

Hey, come on, man...
Quit teasing them, all right?
Naomichi ...
Where've you been, man?
I just got back from a shoot. You know how it is.
Shouldn't you be eating?
Lunch break's gonna be over soon.

I REALLY LIKE HIM A LOT!

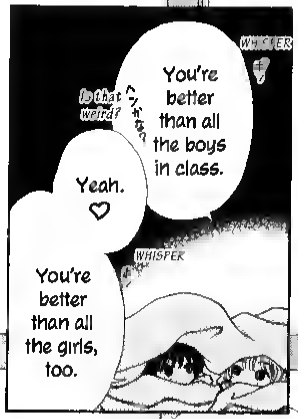
No way!

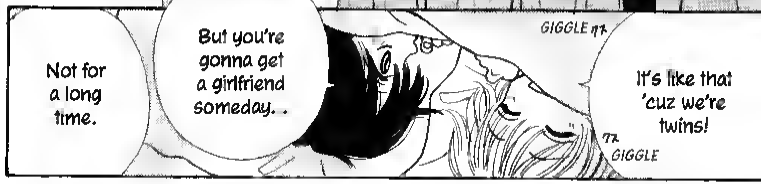
YEAH, HE'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.

SUNAO SATA ISN'T HIS *REAL* NAME, HUH?

I KNEW HE WENT TO OUR SCHOOL, BUT THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM!

I THOUGHT HE'D BE MEAN, LIKE ON TV.





HOW COULD I LIKE ANYONE ELSE?

Shun...
Right now?
Does it *matter* where I am?
SNAP
If you've got nothing to say, don't call me!

Was that Miki?

...
I mean, she's your girlfriend. Isn't she?
Maybe you should be nicer to her.
Look who's talking!
Hey
She's your girlfriend, right?
Oh, you're up.
But you're always with *her* now, right?
I know you never liked anyone in high school...

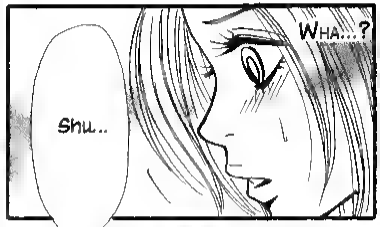
...and I was gonna tell him how I feel!
I only wanted to tell him that I seriously liked him.
You did what?!
It just *happened*!
Really! We were in the same room together...

Shun...?
He said I could be his girlfriend.
I mean...
What's your problem? I thought *you* liked him too!
He's just messing with you!
Are you mad at me?
Don't you ever listen?!

CHAK
How could you *say* that to me?
You're so mean
SHUN?
It... it wasn't like that with us.
...

You can't read my mind anymore...
Remember how much he hurt you?
...but I can still read yours.

FLUMP
N-No, I'm not!
You were saying his name.
Must've been a sweet dream, huh?


WHA...?
Shu..

Naomichi is your ex but...
...you're still in love with him, aren't you?

...when you were with him...
...all you ever did was *screw*, right?
That's what *sluts* do, you know.

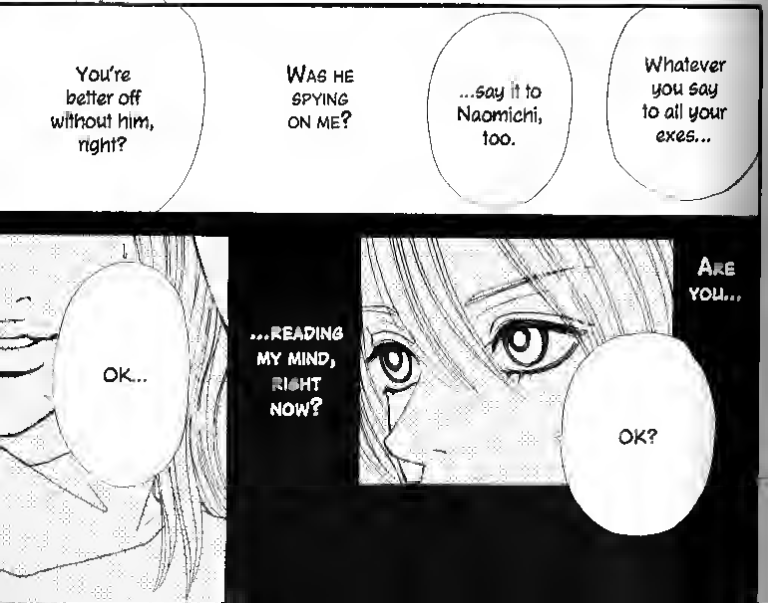
Whoops! I hurt his feelings
Your ex just ran off, crying.
Hm? Are you by yourself?
Miki's not coming to school today.
Oh, really?
Hey!

What do you mean "remember"? How can I forget?

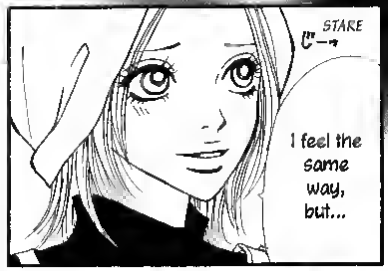
EVEN THOUGH IT HAPPENED THREE YEARS AGO...

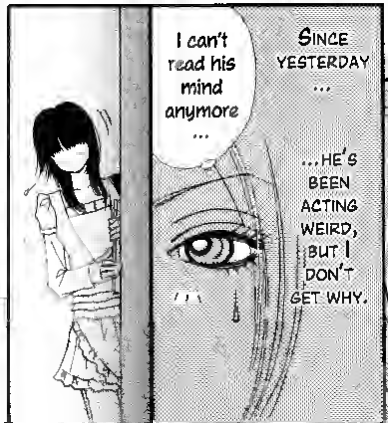
What do you mean "kinda"?
But I... ...I still kinda like you.
I just wanted to see how you'd take it, 'cuz I never know what you're thinking...
I mean...
So can we get back together?

Say the same thing to Naomichi that you said to your ex.
WHIRL
Come on. Promise me.
Shun, Miki's here!
Huh?
Look, over there!


You're better off without him, right?
WAS HE SPYING ON ME?
...say it to Naomichi, too.
Whatever you say to all your exes...
OK...
...READING MY MIND, RIGHT NOW?
OK?
ARE YOU...

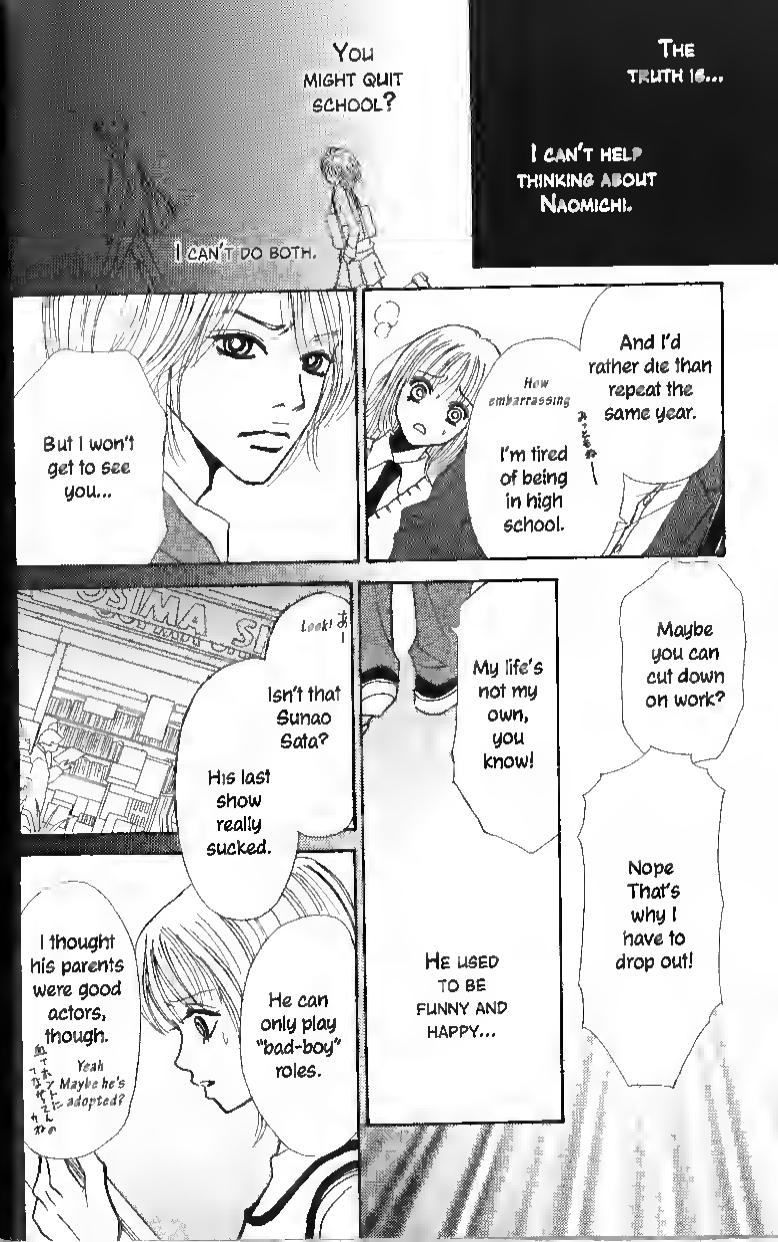
I told you I'd take care of you for the rest of my life.
I mean it.
I'll probably be single, too.
When you broke up with that guy?
Do you remember what I said?


STARE
I feel the same way, but...


I can't read his mind anymore ...
SINCE YESTERDAY ...
...HE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD, BUT I DON'T GET WHY.

I...
I don't want to be without you.

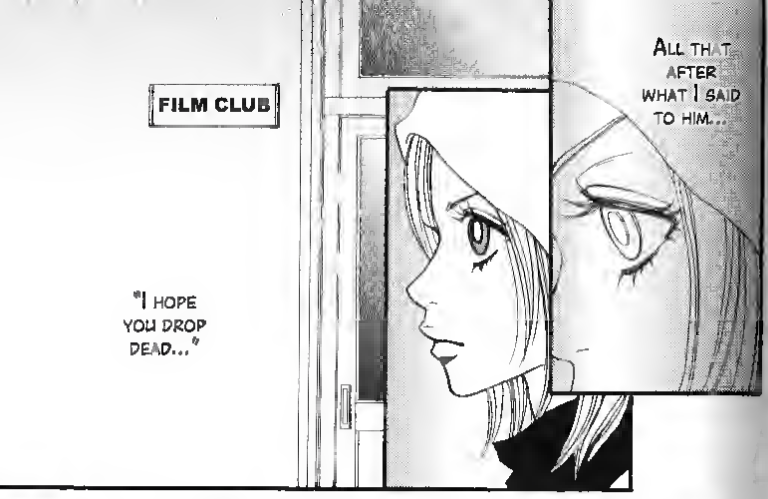
...IS CHANGING DAY BY DAY.
For my sex scene! ♡
It was *just* practice, babe.
CREAK
Real Life Passion with Co-star?
Sunao Sata
THIS GUY I LIKE...
Hey, I've only got one!
But it *would* be nice if I had five or six.
So, I'm sharing your body with that actress?!
No way...
It was just a rehearsal... ...for a TV show.
Maybe we were too dirty for TV, though.


THE TRUTH IS...
I CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT NAOMICHI.
YOU MIGHT QUIT SCHOOL?
I CAN'T DO BOTH.
But I won't get to see you...
How embarrassing
I'm tired of being in high school.
And I'd rather die than repeat the same year.
Look!
Isn't that Sunao Sata?
His last show really sucked.
I thought his parents were good actors, though.
Yeah Maybe he's adopted?
He can only play "bad-boy" roles.
My life's not my own, you know!
HE USED TO BE FUNNY AND HAPPY...
Maybe you can cut down on work?
Nope That's why I have to drop out!

Business?
Yeah, and my value is rising.
I don't have trouble getting laid, you know.
Women *throw* themselves at me!
It hurts...
It hurts!

Let me clue you in, babe.
My body is my business tool.
You don't own it.

SLAP
You're so sleazy!
I can stand anything else...
But...
...I can't stand you *cheating* on me!
SLAP


FILM CLUB
"I HOPE YOU DROP DEAD..."
ALL THAT AFTER WHAT I SAID TO HIM...

Bye! ♡
Yeah, see ya!
Promise me, Naomichi?
DON'T WORRY, SHUN.

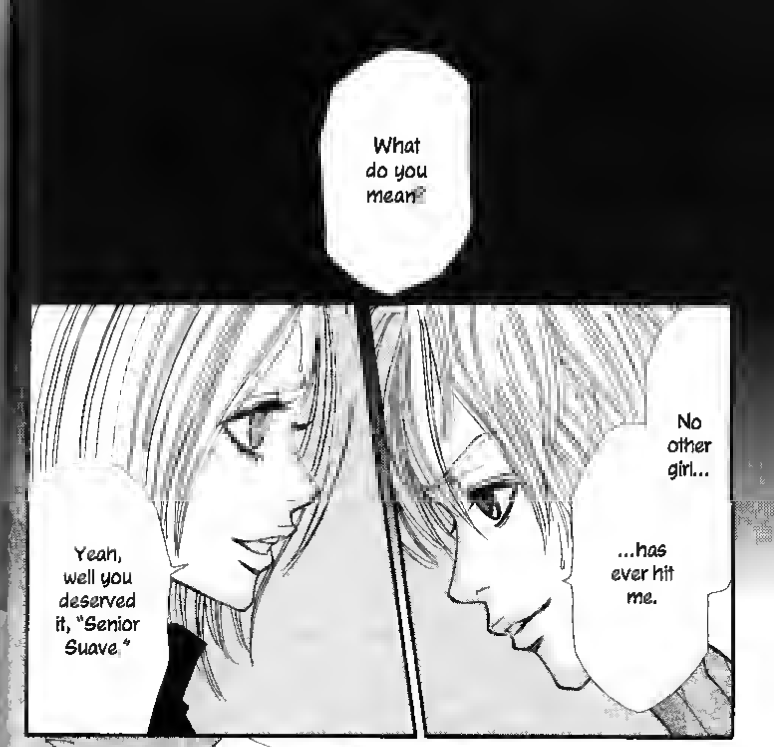
I DIDN'T SEE HIM AFTER HE QUIT SCHOOL.
BUT I COULDN'T ESCAPE HIM. HE WAS ALL OVER THE TV AND MAGAZINE COVERS.
VIOLENT BEHAVIOR
ACTOR BACKS OUT OF SHOW
DRUG ALLEGATIONS
HIS CAREER FLOPPED AND HE GAVE UP ACTING.
That's horrible!
I don't just want you for your body!!
Fine! Go ahead and ruin your life!

Tough luck, pal!
"You're better off without him, right?"
KRUNCH
Ungg!
I'm not a kid anymore. I won't fall for your act again!
No fair...
My balls!
Hmph!
Anyway, why bother?
You forgot all about me till the other day, right?

I'm just curious...
...about that horrible ex with the same smile as when I liked him.
Ha!
Yeah, right.
!
Well, fuck me! ♡
What?!
Skip
Skip
I can't believe you came all the way out here to see me!
You don't usually come out here. Is that why I've never seen you?
Hubba-hubba...
Let go of me.

SLAM
CLICK
ガチャ☆

You're not a kid anymore, right?
Did you hear me?!
If you try something, I'll scream.


What do you mean?
No other girl...
...has ever hit me.
Yeah, well you deserved it, "Senior Suave."

Heh, that old name...
But I'm not a senior. I'm a freshman.
Huh?
Watch out!
TUG

...COVERING MY MOUTH...
Mph..
You're...
...SO I CAN'T SCREAM.
Uhn.. mm...
Uhmm
Uhh!
...
?
HUFF
FWISH!

What?!
No...
Stop it!
...with that weak voice.
No one's gonna hear you...
N...
There's only one way to be sure...
Prove it with your *body*.

Mmm...
...don't feel like you did when I took your virginity!
PINCH
You sure...
Agh!
RUB
RUB
Just how many guys have you been with?
Agh...
THUNK
I don't sleep around!
I only sleep with boyfriends!

Hey!
RUB
RUB
I gave you all the time you needed.
You're really getting wet.
You're forcing me!
That's not very nice!
You didn't run away this time.
BUMP

I found out what he's like, so I broke up with him.
That's right. You're not like them at all.
The beginning and the end...
...were both MY choice.
Don't ya think it's strange that we met...
...right after you broke up with your boyfriend?
But still...
Uhn!

Yes we... are!
No...
No way!
This is wrong...
I'm leaving!
Come on, get naked.
Stop it...
Don't touch me...
Y- You... can sleep with anyone!
I'm not... the same as... your other... girls.
No. We're not finished.
THUMP
HUG

WHAM
Don't ya think?
WHAM
Uhn...
Uhn!
WHAM
Think of it as *fate*.
Uhn!
My body...
...and my mind...
...don't agree with each other.
Right, Shu?
THUMP
THUMP

REAL LOVE
CHAPTER TWO

Welcome home... "Miss Slut."
!
Shun ...
SLAM
How does he know that I...?
No way...

Even...
.. I didn't know it was going to happen.
RING
RING
RING
RING
Hello?
Why'd you just leave like that?
Who's that?
INCOMING CALL 68947
KA CHAK
KA CHAK
Naomichi!!
Come over! I'm at...
You took off while I was getting dressed!
Naomichi?!
Call Block
Turn Off Phone
CLICK
RUSTLE
I've got a friend over, Shu.
How 'bout joining us?
Bed-time?
RUSTLE
Who are you talking to? C'mon!
It's past your bedtime!
RUSTLE
A girl's voice?

UHN!!
UHN!!
あ、
あっ
あ
UH
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW WEAK I AM.
ALL HE DID WAS TOUCH ME AND I GOT HORNY...
He wants a threesome?
Join them?!
FLUMP
WHAT A JOKE!
HOW COULD I HAVE FALLEN FOR HIM AGAIN?
UHHHHHHHHNN!!

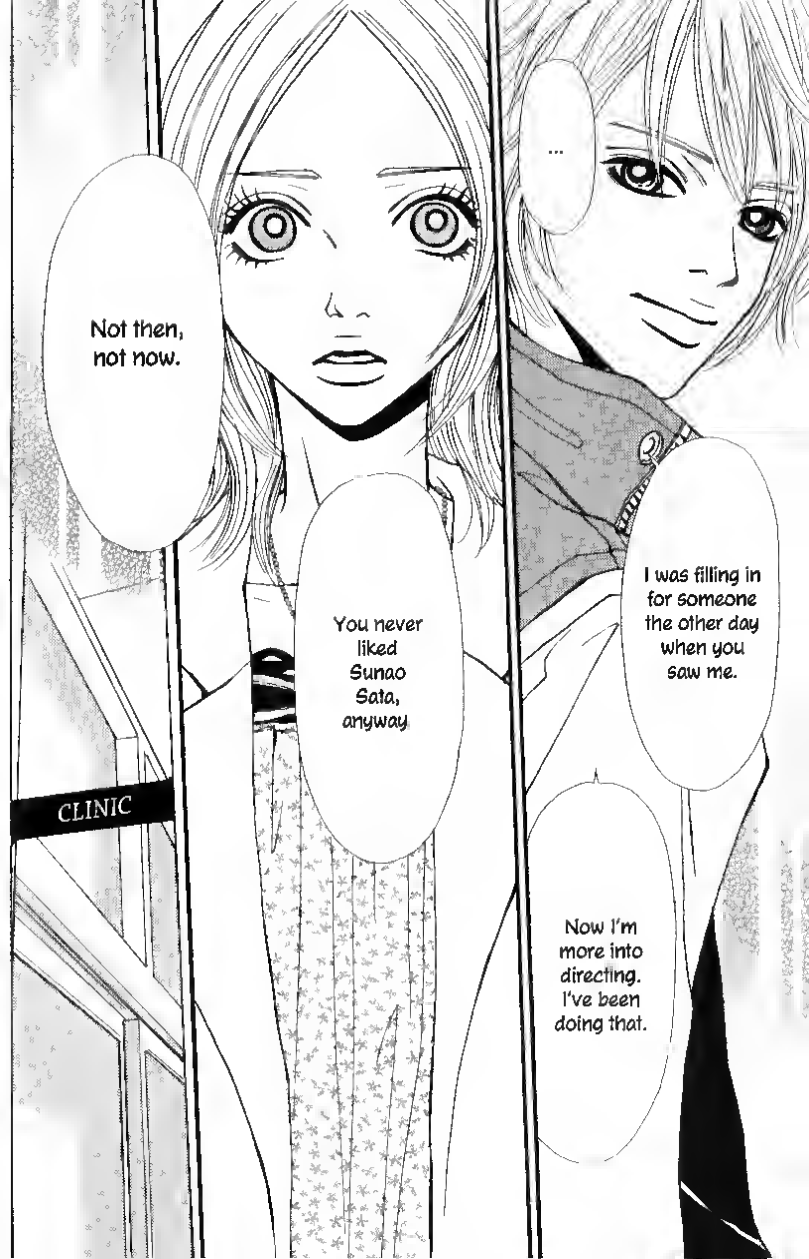
THIS DEFINITELY ISN'T FATE.
Shu!
Shu!
....
TAK
TAK
TAK
Sweet-heart!
Honey!
Pussycat!
What already?!!
GLARE
You turned off your phone. Jealous?
I called you like a dozen times!?
Quit messing with me! I'm not into you!
She's just a friend.
Well you guys sounded awfully close. Not that I care!

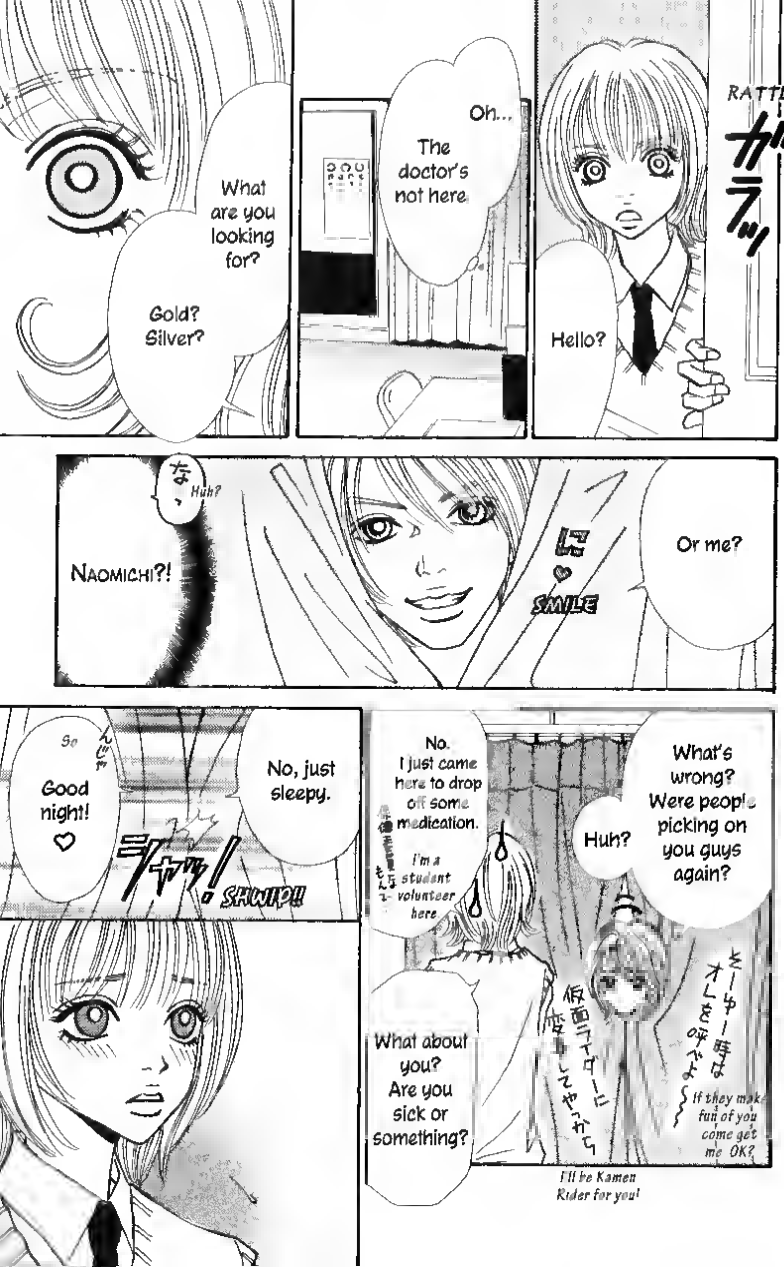
Before I went to America.
...
You don't understand.
She took care of me, a long time ago
America?
My parents gave me some money...
...and told me to lay low.
You know... foreign exile
My parents didn't want their careers to suffer because of me
My parents were criticized, too. The price of fame, I guess.
The media always jumped all over me for being underage.

They're not like me at all.
They're *serious* about acting.
I liked America. Now *there's* freedom!
I wasted my money and wound up broke. I couldn't go home like that, so I started working.
I made a lot of friends and I was thinking of staying.
But in the end, I had to come back...
.. to the place where I was born

I found out who my *real* friends were that way.
Not a lot of people...
...missed me, though.
Even my *parents* didn't really miss me.
"I DON'T WANT YOU...!!"
But...
...my family was *always* screwed up.
Being abandoned by them was hard.
Why are you telling *me* all this?
Oh...
...sorry to bother you with stuff you don't care about.

Uh...
What about your acting?!
Why are you doing it again?
I thought...
...you didn't even like it.


...
Not then, not now.
You never liked Sunao Sata, anyway
I was filling in for someone the other day when you saw me.
Now I'm more into directing. I've been doing that.
CLINIC


RATTLE
ガラッ
Hello?
Oh...
The doctor's not here.
What are you looking for?
Gold? Silver?
Huh?
NAOMICHI?!
SMILE
Or me?
No, just sleepy.
Good night!
SHWIP!!
No. I just came here to drop off some medication.
I'm a student volunteer here.
Huh?
What's wrong? Were people picking on you guys again?
If they make fun of you come get me OK?
What about you? Are you sick or something?
I'll be Kamen Rider for you!

You haven't been in school for a few days.
Huh?
Oh, yeah.
I've been shooting for that soap opera.
Do you watch it?
Oh... um...
Huh?
You don't? Oh, well.
...
No! I MEAN, I...
I mean...
JOLT!
I...
I like you, Naomichi!
Not Sunao Sata, but you!

Since you helped us out that time, I've wanted to talk to you, but...
...there are always all these people with you.
And I know I'm only a freshman...
But I like you, really!
Not the you on TV, the you in real life
I mean
PLEASE, SAY SOME-THING...
Well, we're all alone now, right?
Huh?
The doctor won't be back for another hour...
...so you wanna...?

Oh...
..
I'm sorry.
Do you find me unattractive?
Huh?!
Hey...
...Shun.
ビクッ
JOLT

We've been together for a year, now. .
...but you haven't touched me. Ever.
Am I...
...not pretty enough or something?
I...
We're just friends.
You said just hanging around is fine.
You're the one who said so.

I thought we'd get closer if we hung out all the time.
Did something change?
I know I'm a virgin, but it's no big deal.
I just don't understand you!
You've been acting so cold lately.
I...
Well, then!

What if I did it to you...
...right here, right now?!
Would that make you feel better?
Is *that* what girls want?

SMILE
ニコ
ニコ
ニコ
Hi there! You're late.
Oh! You stopped by the video store?
So, uh... ...what did you get? We gonna watch it tonight?
Please, talk to me.
Shu...
What's up?
You were wearing my hat the other day.
Where is it?
Uh-oh...
The knit one. With the tag inside, on the left corner.

Did I...
Did I lose it when I was with Naomichi the other day?
Um...
GULP
I might have left it at a friend's house.
Oh, I get it.
One fuck later, and he graduates from your ex to your friend.
What?
The power of sex is that strong, huh?

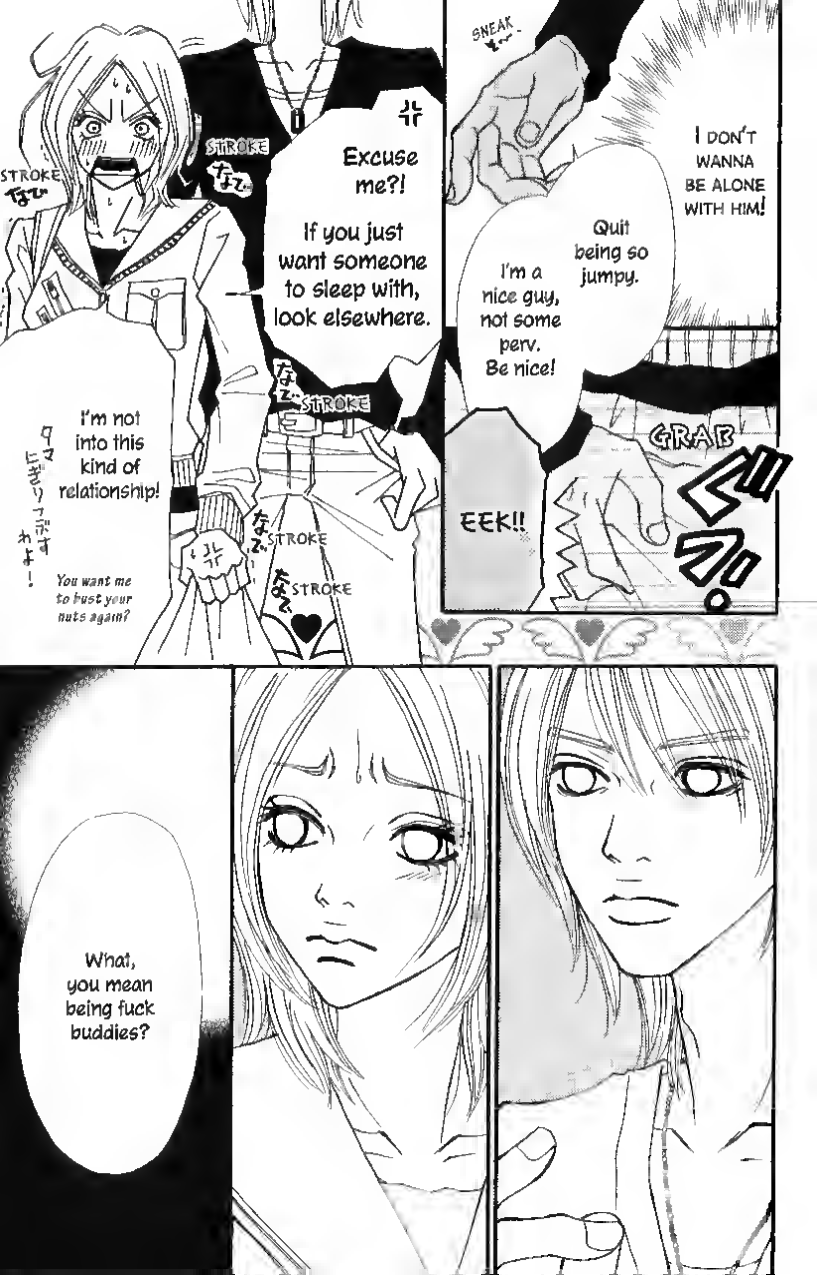
You were his girlfriend...
...for the sex, right?
But you told me it wasn't like that.
What *else* did you do with him?
Huh? Tell me!
...

Get me back my hat. It's important.
I got it for my birthday...
...from Miki.
SLAM
"WHAT ELSE DID YOU DO WITH HIM?"
Can't you just go see him alone?

How did he get my number?
RING
RING
RING
RING
Come to think of it...
Redial...
We don't wanna bother you guys.
Yeah
No! Let's go together!
I guess I haven't changed it since high school.
RING
RING
But there's no way he could have memorized it.
RING
R...
I'm coming!
RING
Why would he bother?
I erased HIS number... but did he keep MINE?
Who are you talking to...?
I know it's you!
You wanna come too?
...
Oh baby, I'm coming!

ムカ
GRR...
Like your body, baby! ♡
'Cuz your stuff is my stuff.
Why are you wearing it?
あれ?
Huh?
A hat? Yeah. I'm wearing it right now.
Why, what's wrong with that?
今日スタイリングしてもらいそこねた
I didn't get my hair today
Shun?
My twin brother. It's his hat!
Give it back!
Shun got that hat from his girlfriend.
Oh, your brother...
...has a girlfriend now?

ポン
PLUNK
?
?
Yeah, he does, so what?
Oh. Never mind. Wow, a girlfriend...
Where are my friends?
他の女生は?
And the other students?
I gave 'em a dirty look and they took off.
No way!
Huh?
ガラーン…
EMPTY
OK. Here it is! ♡
...Where did you come from?!


SNEAK
I DON'T WANNA BE ALONE WITH HIM!
Quit being so jumpy.
I'm a nice guy, not some perv. Be nice!
EEK!!
GRAB
Excuse me?!
If you just want someone to sleep with, look elsewhere.
STROKE
I'm not into this kind of relationship!
You want me to bust your nuts again?
What, you mean being fuck buddies?

Naomichi Hasegawa, 21 years old. A freshman in film studies.
A little old to be a freshman, but...
Living alone in a one-bedroom apartment.
"Alone" if you don't count my hamster
I work two jobs, five days a week to pay the rent.
I'm serious about you.

I'm just an ordinary college student
But I've got the good luck to look good!
I thought you liked me like this.
...
Well?

Damn, you're stubborn.
Where are we?
We use this place for shooting sometimes.
Don't worry. No one comes all the way up to the top floor.
Nobody would ever suspect us of having sex up here.
Oh...
ZIP

What did he mean by "serious"?
Hold on.
Why?
You came with me up here knowing what was gonna happen, right?
Ooh
I don't understand.
Mmm...
He can have any other girl he wants.
Why does it have to be me?

Why choose ME over THEM?
Uh...
Agh!!
Uhm...
Shhhh-hhhh
あ
AHHH
AHHH
AHHH
AHHH
...
Stop.
HUFF
I can't keep my voice steady.
We shouldn't do this.
It echoes a lot up here.
If we stop now, you'll have to pay me a cancellation fee.
Well then, get to it!
You sure are eager! Are you in heat...?

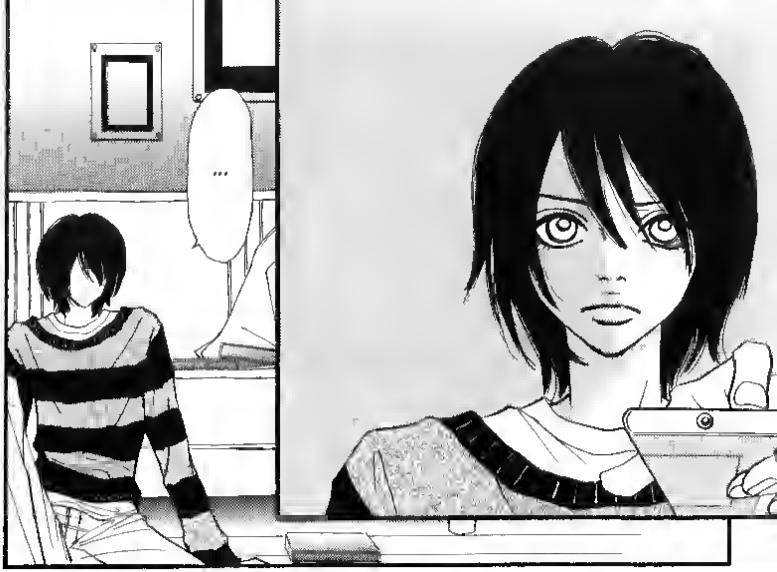
Ah?
Kiss
...
I'm gonna wreck you good.
クチュッ
RUB
Uhn!
I'm gonna make it so no other man can satisfy you.
...my little kitten?
クチュ
RUB
クチュッ
RUB
After my finger, it'll be my cock.
That'll make you scream.
Haa...
P... Please!
No...
That's enough. S-Stop... now!

Put it in yourself.
What?
Then it won't be such a shock.
CLINK
カチャ
CLINK
カチャ
Here...
Wow...
It's HOT.
HUFF
はぁ
...
...
Ngn...

If you can't keep from screaming...
...then bite my shoulder.
Oh!
Naomichi
You can't do it? OK.
I'll go slow.
It's the same as when we were dating...
...OR MAYBE IT'S BETTER THAN THAT.
PUSH

Uhn!
Want me to go faster?
Uhn... uhhn!
Need to scream?
And even while we were together.
Why am I so excited?
It doesn't matter if he's sweet like he used to be.
Uhn...
He totally forgot about me while we were apart.
Uhn!
It's too late now...
You want more, huh?
Ngn
...nnn!

EVERYTHING SHUN SAID WAS RIGHT.
Uhn...
Uhn!
Uhnn!!
You like it this way? Huh, slut?
BAM
BAM
BAM
Oh, yes! Fuck me!
More! I need more!
Fuck me hard!
RLIP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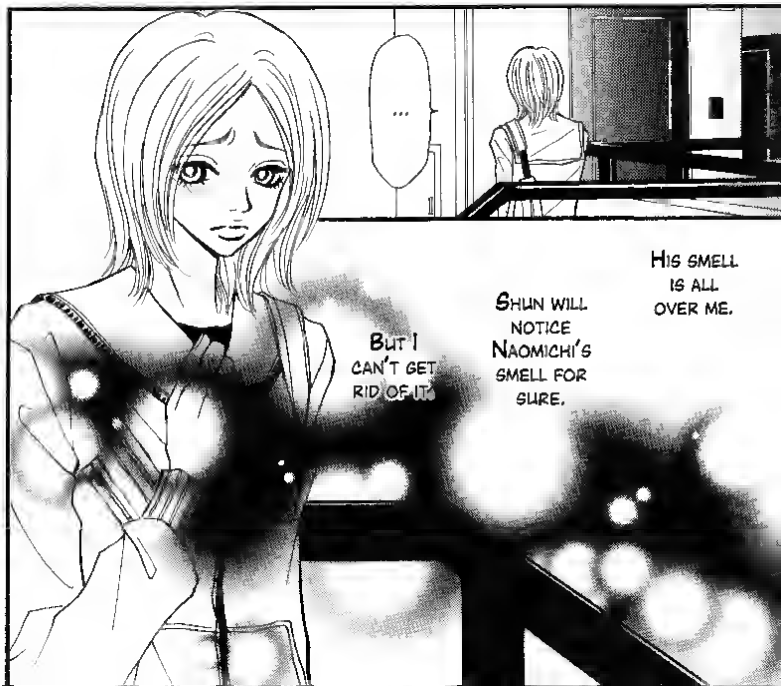
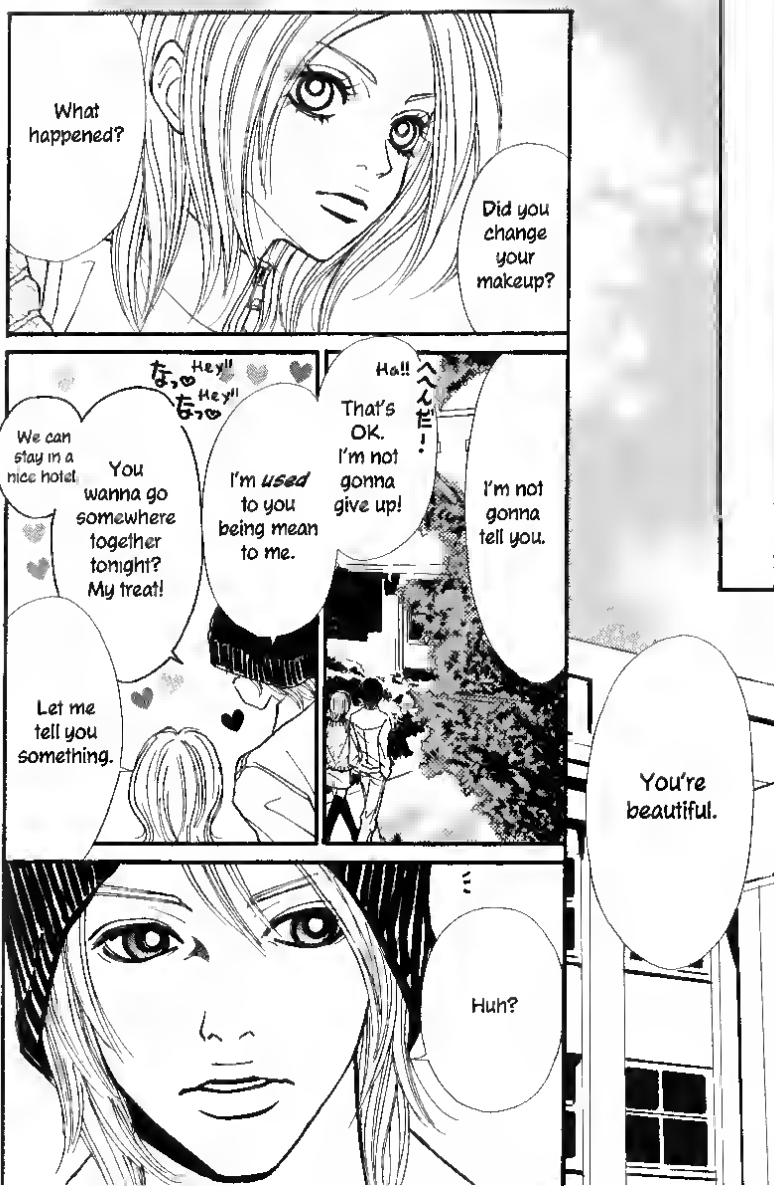

...
His smell is all over me.
Shun will notice Naomichi's smell for sure.
But I can't get rid of it.

I HAVE TO RETURN HIS HAT, TOO.
I'm home...
カチャ
KA-CHAK
PSSSSSH
PSSSSSH
PSSSSSH
I should leave his hat in his room while he's busy...
Phew!
ホッ
Is he in the shower?
HELP...ME...
Shun?
You all right in there?
Hey!
コン
KNOCK
コン
KNOCK
PSSSSSH
PSSSSSH

KA-CHAK
Are you sick?
I'm all right.
But just now I heard...
I'm OK.
SPLASH
Anyway, where were you?
I wanted to ask you something
KRK

I need you, Shu.
I won't ever ask you this again.
Can you do something for me?


What happened?
Did you change your makeup?
Hey!!
Hey!!
We can stay in a nice hotel.
You wanna go somewhere together tonight? My treat!
I'm used to you being mean to me.
Ha!!
That's OK. I'm not gonna give up!
へへんだ!
I'm not gonna tell you.
You're beautiful.
Let me tell you something.
Huh?

Just because we met up and had sex...
...do you really think that changes anything between us?
What?
I said, let's break up. You heard me.
This isn't gonna work, OK?
I was only with you because you wanted me to be.
Let me spell it out for you...

I don't love you...
...I just pity you.

scan by why

What do you mean she didn't buy it?
Did she really say that?
Yeah. Then she just ran off.
I'm not doing this again!
I had no idea what you were asking. I only agreed 'cuz you were crying...
I knew I shouldn't have done this.
Huh? Who was crying?

You were crying!
You're wrong.
Oh, so I just imagined you sobbing, "Help me"?
You know, I get it now.
It's not about me not reading your mind.
It's about you shutting me out.
Why?
Why are you doing that? We're twins!
And why are you just giving up on Miki?
I... I'm done dealing with this crap.

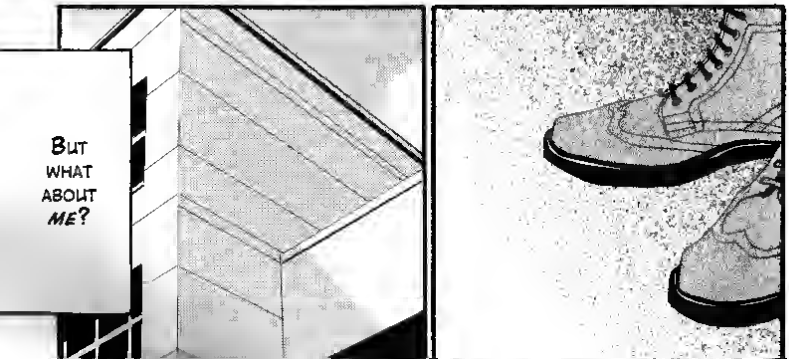
I don't think...
...I'll ever date another girl.
What...?

...THE PROBLEM IS WITH YOU.
MIKI LOVES YOU SO MUCH. THERE'S NO REASON TO HATE HER.
IT DIDN'T MATTER HOW MEAN I WAS OR ALL THAT STUFF I SAID ABOUT PITYING HER.
I don't buy it!

Shun's just running away.

...he can't ignore her.

Now that he knows how she feels...



I KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN IF I SEE HIM.
BUT I CAN'T HELP LOOKING FOR HIM.
TH— THUMP

WHAT WAS THAT?

CLACK!!
Well hello, ex-girlfriend.
Naomichi's told me all about you...
...I feel like we've already met.
Uh...
She's...
She's a good friend. She took care of me, a long time ago.
Naomichi told me about you, too.
You're...
...his friend, right?
That's right. I've always been his friend.

Not like you *now*
But I liked him then, and I still do!
SHE'S NOT HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND?
When we met, he was hiding from the paparazzi.
If he hadn't been...
...we probably never would've met.
Naomichi's done with you.
You saw his reaction, right?
You must be used to dating *jerks*.
I used to think you had good taste being with him.
What do you mean by "now"?
Now...?

He doesn't want your pity. He needs a *friend*.
RING
What do you want?
Where are you? Can we meet up?
Nope, can't.
I need to ask you something. And I want you to be honest.
6 MISSED CALLS
RING
RING
BEEP

Remember the day I went to see Miki? Did you go and see Naomichi?
Yeah, we talked.
Shun, you didn't...
...
Shun!
Yeah, I did.
I said exactly what I told you to say to Miki.
Why the hell did you do that?!
I didn't ask for your help!
It's none of your business!

We're twins.
Everything equal, right?
Yes, it is.
It *is* my business.
What?
But you started having sex...
.. and you got yourself someone.
But look at *me*...
...I can't even *touch* mine.
The girl I like said she doesn't understand me!

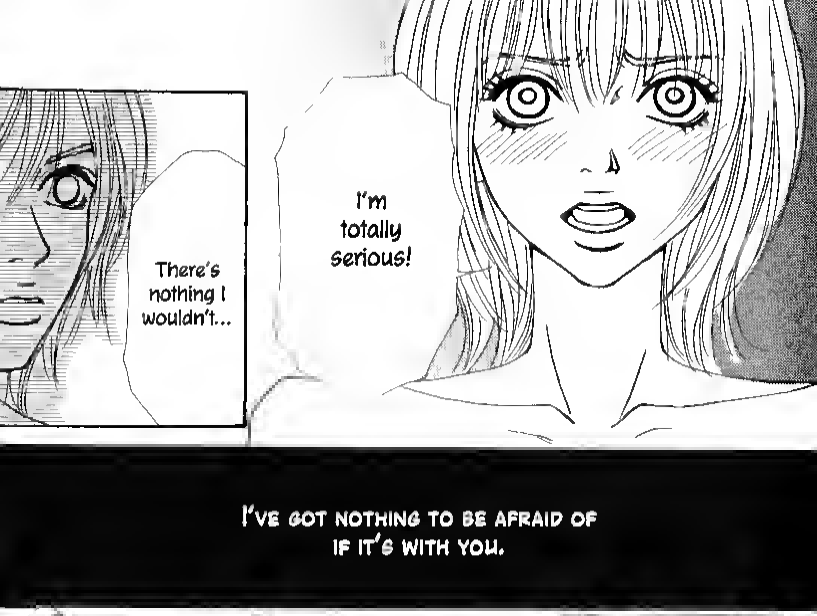
...that things worked out only for you and Naomichi.
It's not fair...

Shun...
It's just not working for me.
I can't have sex with her like she wants.

Why are you and I so different now?!

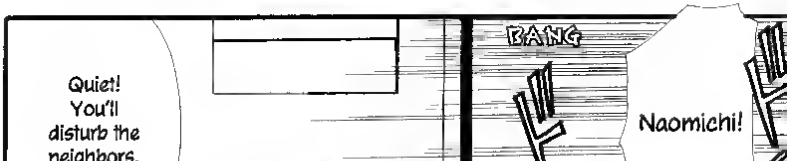
...
Miki... deserves better. I feel sorry for her.
RING
"What's your name, girl-twin?"
"Shu..."

ZWIP
Let's stop now.
I've never done a virgin before.
Huh?
Get dressed.
I'm not a bad guy.
Besides, I'm your hero.
Um...
DA-DUM!!
はっ!!
If you get naked, how can I resist?
Hey!



I'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF IF IT'S WITH YOU.

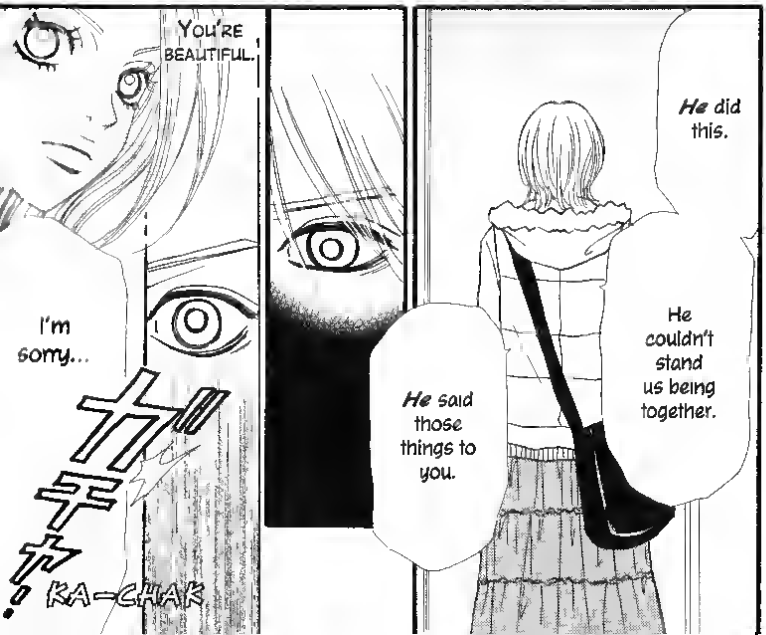
BANG
BANG
I know you're in there! I can hear your phone ringing.
Shu?


Quiet! You'll disturb the neighbors.
BANG
Naomichi!

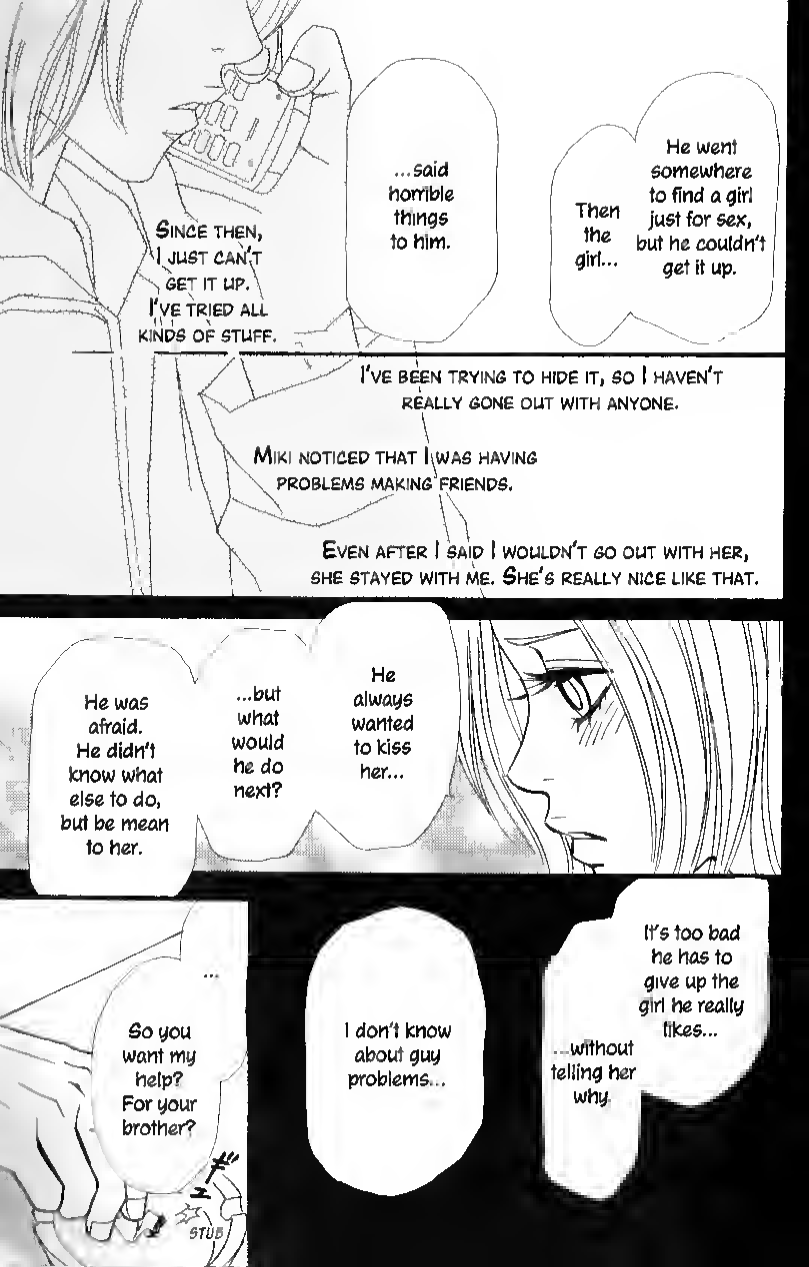
There's nothing left to talk about.
You don't have to come here anymore.
I need to talk to you.
Let me in!

If I want sex, I can find someone else.

It was my brother.
What?
Yeah.
S-Someone else?
It doesn't matter who?
...


You're beautiful.
I'm sorry...
He did this.
He couldn't stand us being together.
He said those things to you.
カチャ!
KA-CHAK

FLICK
He said he freaked when I lost my virginity.
Until we were 16, we always did everything together.
It freaked him out that you were my first, 'cuz he liked you, too.
He was such a kid. He didn't know anything about girls.
But me losing my virginity before him made him rush things.

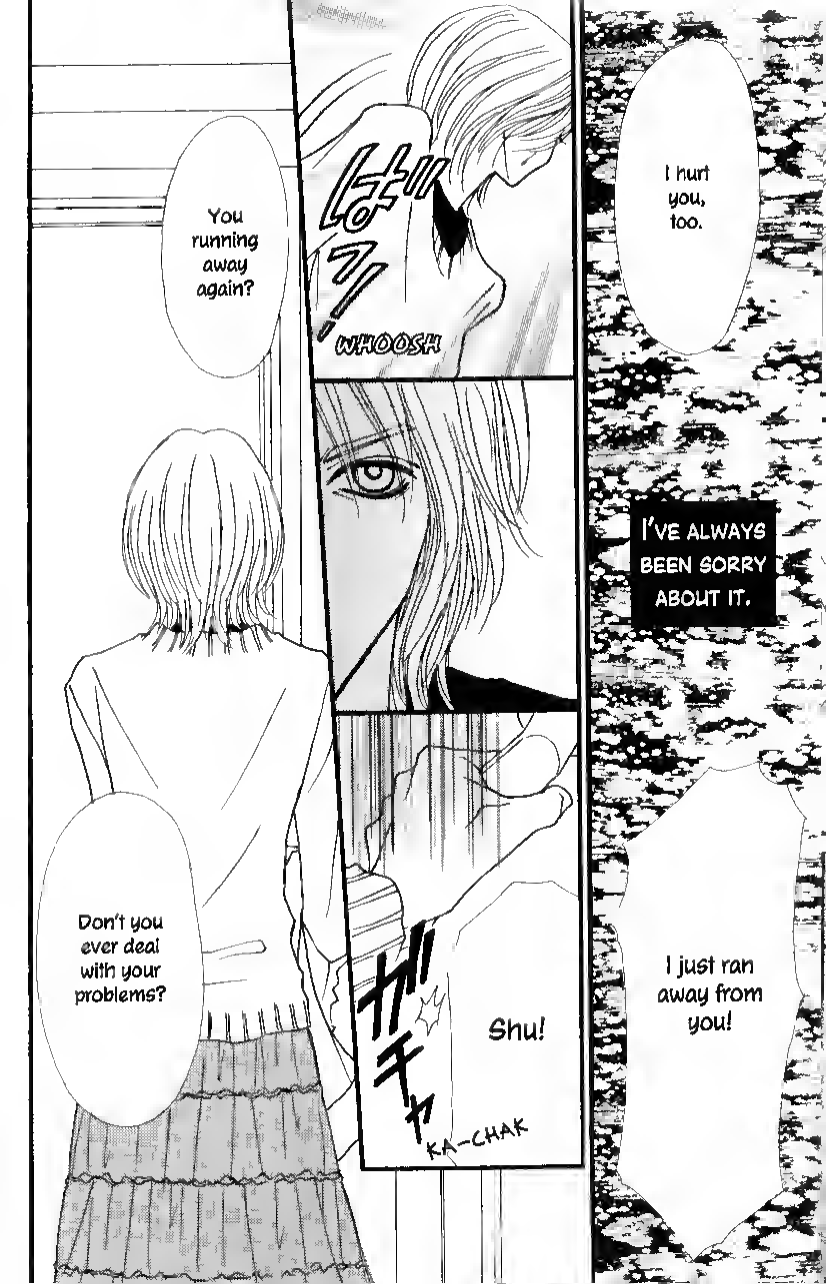

...said horrible things to him.
Then the girl...
He went somewhere to find a girl just for sex, but he couldn't get it up.
Since then, I just can't get it up. I've tried all kinds of stuff.
I've been trying to hide it, so I haven't really gone out with anyone.
Miki noticed that I was having problems making friends.
Even after I said I wouldn't go out with her, she stayed with me. She's really nice like that.
He was afraid. He didn't know what else to do, but be mean to her.
...but what would he do next?
He always wanted to kiss her...
...
So you want my help? For your brother?
STUB
I don't know about guy problems...
...without telling her why.
It's too bad he has to give up the girl he really likes...

Well, you know about guy stuff...
Who's more important to you?
Since it was your brother who broke up with me...
...I don't know how you feel.
I...
Right?
So, tell me.

!
You got pretty into it the other day.
I know you hate relation-ships that...
...are just about sex.
I CAN'T SAY IT...
I LIKED HIM THEN, AND I STILL DO!
I'M NOT LIKE HER. I CAN'T JUST SAY IT.
If it's not pity, it's gotta be love!

SOB
...
NAOMICHI?
CREAK

You guys really *are* twins.
Huh?
You do the same thing.
And...
...you don't think about how other people feel.
No!
I do.
I *do* think about it. That's why I can't be with you.
Always...
I feel like I'm not good enough for you.
I know I hurt you.


I hurt you, too.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SORRY ABOUT IT.
I just ran away from you!
Shu!
KA-CHAK
Don't you ever deal with your problems?
You running away again?
WHOOSH

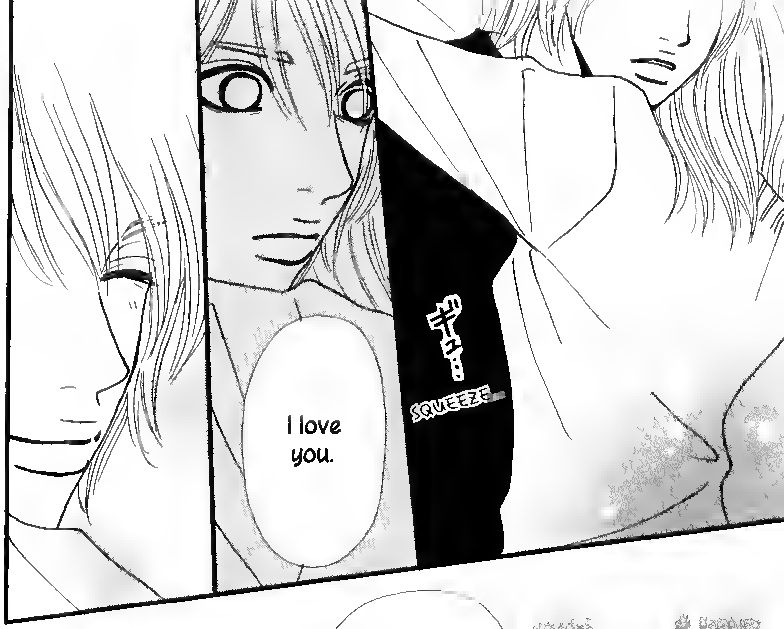
I know you still want me.
Three years ago...
...we couldn't be together because of my work...
...but your body told me how you felt.
It still does.
DON'T BE NICE TO ME...

You slept with that actress.
I wasn't enough for you!
But you...
...cheated on me.
I CAN'T SHUT UP.
...and afterwards...
...I went off on you like that...
I hit you...
And I totally lost it.
...you burned out like I said you would.

So that's your weak spot.
Huh?
Dealing with your problems, like a...
SCOOP
EEEK!
...
No, I mean ...

Three years ago...
...I couldn't help you. But I can now.
Back then, I never finished anything.
Work, school, relationships...
We only saw each other at school, after awhile.
Work was getting really busy, even though the media hated me.
Nothing ever went my way.
I was losing it.
Gotta put you down...
I thought I could wreck that with all those stupid things I did.
My reputation as my parents' golden child...
WHAT?
If we'd stayed together...
...I would've just dragged you down with me. I didn't want to do that.

And now, it's all good.
GASP
はっ
You were trying to protect me?
I didn't think you'd *hit* me though...
...but I guess it worked out.
You idiot!
All good?
Don't pretend like everything's fine!
You should've told me all this back then!
I would never have found this out if we hadn't met again.


ギュッ
SQUEEZE
I love you.

So, now you tell me.
I'M GLAD WE MET AGAIN.
This time we have a bed.
Let's try it out
CREAK
キシッ
CREAK
キシッ

Mm...
Nao...
Uhm... mm...
TREMBLE
Mm...
I like looking at you from this angle.
Mm...
TREMBLE
Uhm ...
Naomichi.
Let me do it to you...
No.

I've got you...
...I don't need anyone else.
SHIVER
No other girl makes me feel this way.
Uhn!
RUB
If I can do this with you anytime...
Uhn...
nn!
Uhn!
Uhn...
You're the only one...
THRUST

He's going too fast.
S... slower...
W...
Uhn... nn!
W...
What's the matter?
ちゃんと言わせて!!
Wait a second!
I need to tell you something first!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
I...
What?
Why so serious all of a sudden?
I never let them touch me.
I never...
...with my other boyfriends...
I guess... because the feeling wasn't there.
FHEW
Huh?

You were dating guys you weren't into?
I was confused.
I guess I...
I've been waiting for you all this time.
I'm glad I kept after you.
Mmm...
See, I knew you really loved me.

EVEN WHILE WE WERE APART...

...OUR FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER...

...REMAINED THE SAME.

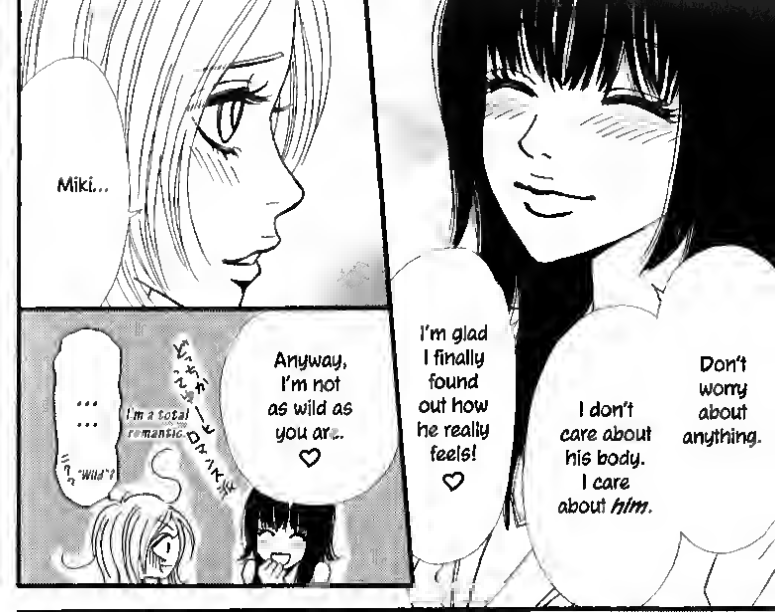
I'll talk to your brother.

He should be as happy as us.

I'm home, Shun!
Listen
Naomichi ...
Huh?
In a way, we've always been together.

...
No. She knows everything.
She heard everything I told you.
Um
You guys got back together? That's great!
What the?
Shun?
カチャン...
KA-CHAK
I just couldn't...
...believe he'd break up with me.
I'm sorry. I eavesdropped.
Oh
Yeah.
Outside
Can you come out here for a second?

He liked me...
...but he said the meanest things.
I wouldn't be able to forgive myself if I hurt someone I liked.
TEE HEE
Oh, you...
...you knew that was me?!
He should have been the one to talk to me.
But I didn't see this coming.
I know him. I'm always with him.
Yeah... duh!
It was a big surprise.
I had no idea he was hiding something like this.


Miki...
Don't worry about anything.
I don't care about his body. I care about him.
I'm glad I finally found out how he really feels!
Anyway, I'm not as wild as you are.
I'm a total romantic
"Wild"?

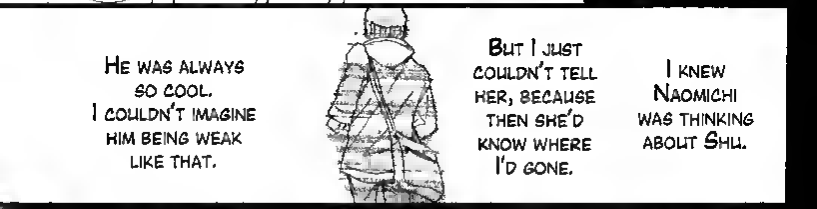
KA-CHAK カチャ!!

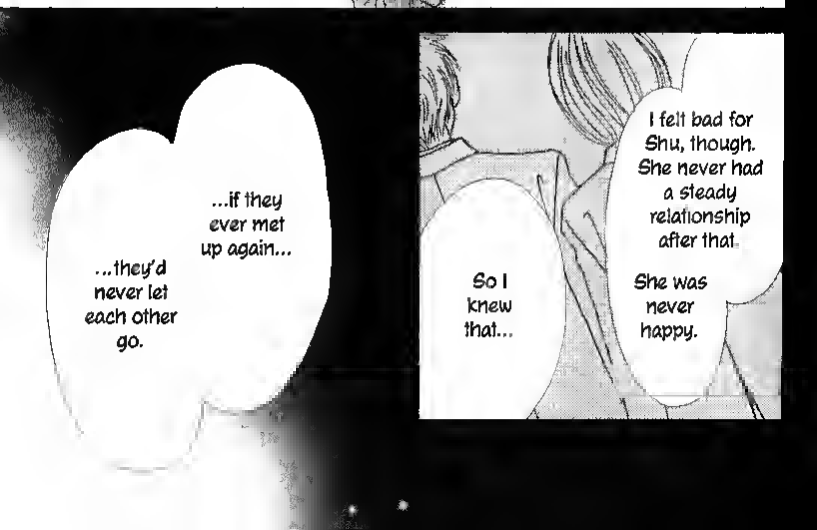
Miki, I'll walk you to the station.
OK!
Shu...
Ready for round two?
Right here!
Say yes!
Please?
...

He was telling me about technique.
Two guys with a secret, huh?
Yeah.
Why are you pissed?
I was gone for like five minutes!
Hey, no more secrets, right?
Weli... yeah.
...
And?
And...
Before my sister and Naomichi hooked up, I liked him.
I couldn't do it with girls, so I thought I might be, you know...
So, just once, I went to this gay bar.
AND I RAN INTO NAOMICHI.

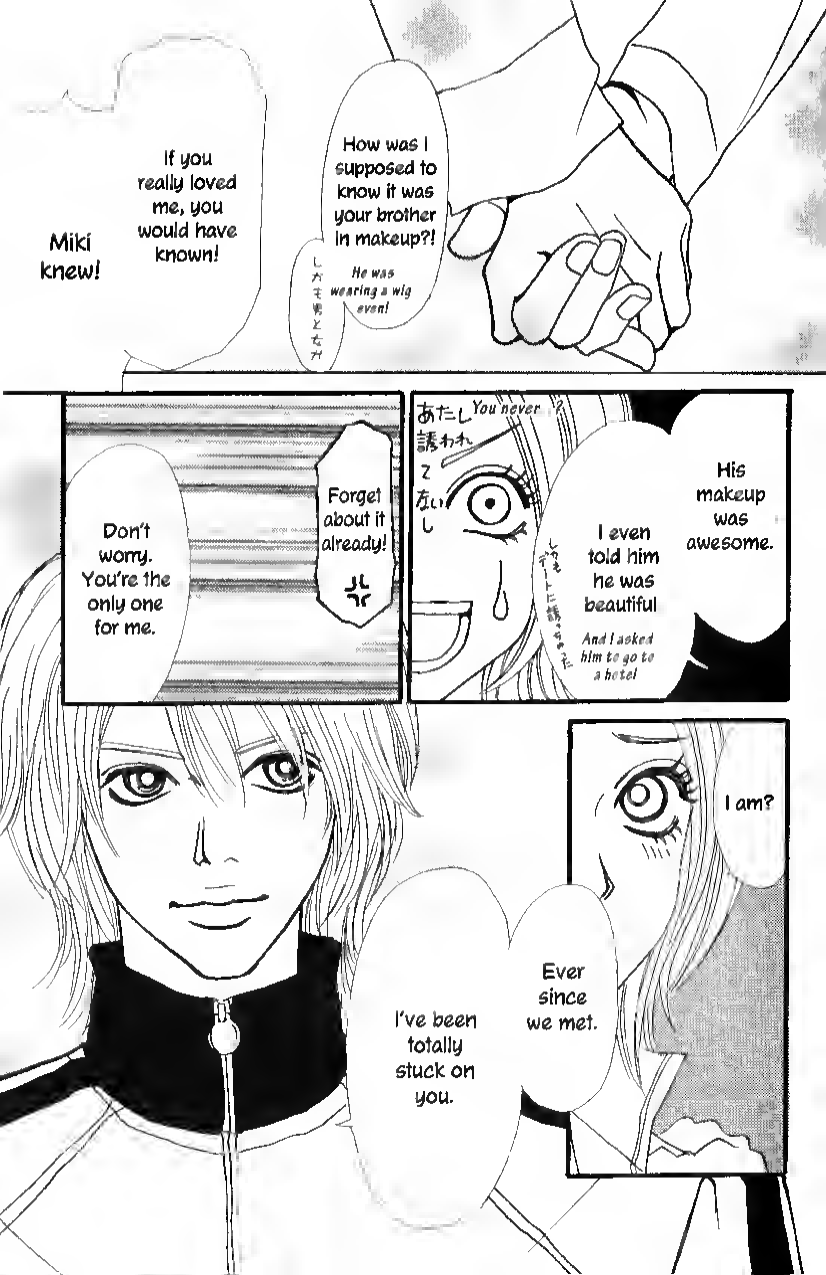
He was a little drunk.
I tried to avoid him.
But he grabbed me and started talking.
I'm sorry!
He thought...
I know you'll never forgive me!
I'm sorry I hurt you.
You didn't cry when you gave me your virginity.
...I was Shu.
But...
Is he crying?
...I can never forget...
...the way you cried when we fought.
SQUEEZE

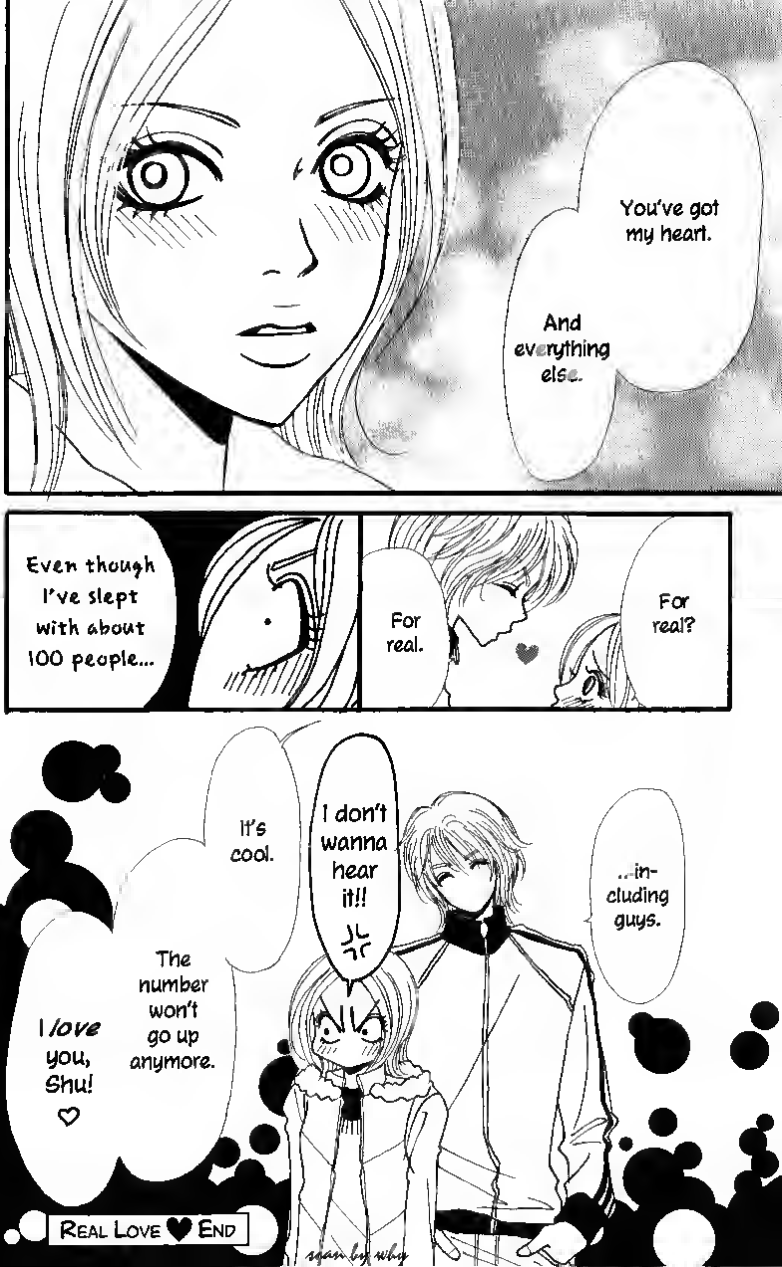
That's Shu!
You'd better go. He's acting weird tonight.
That's a guy
THAT WAS MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER THEY BROKE UP.
SWOON
Look, Shu's here!
See
Shu? Your ex-girlfriend?
I don't see her.
Where?
Naomichi!

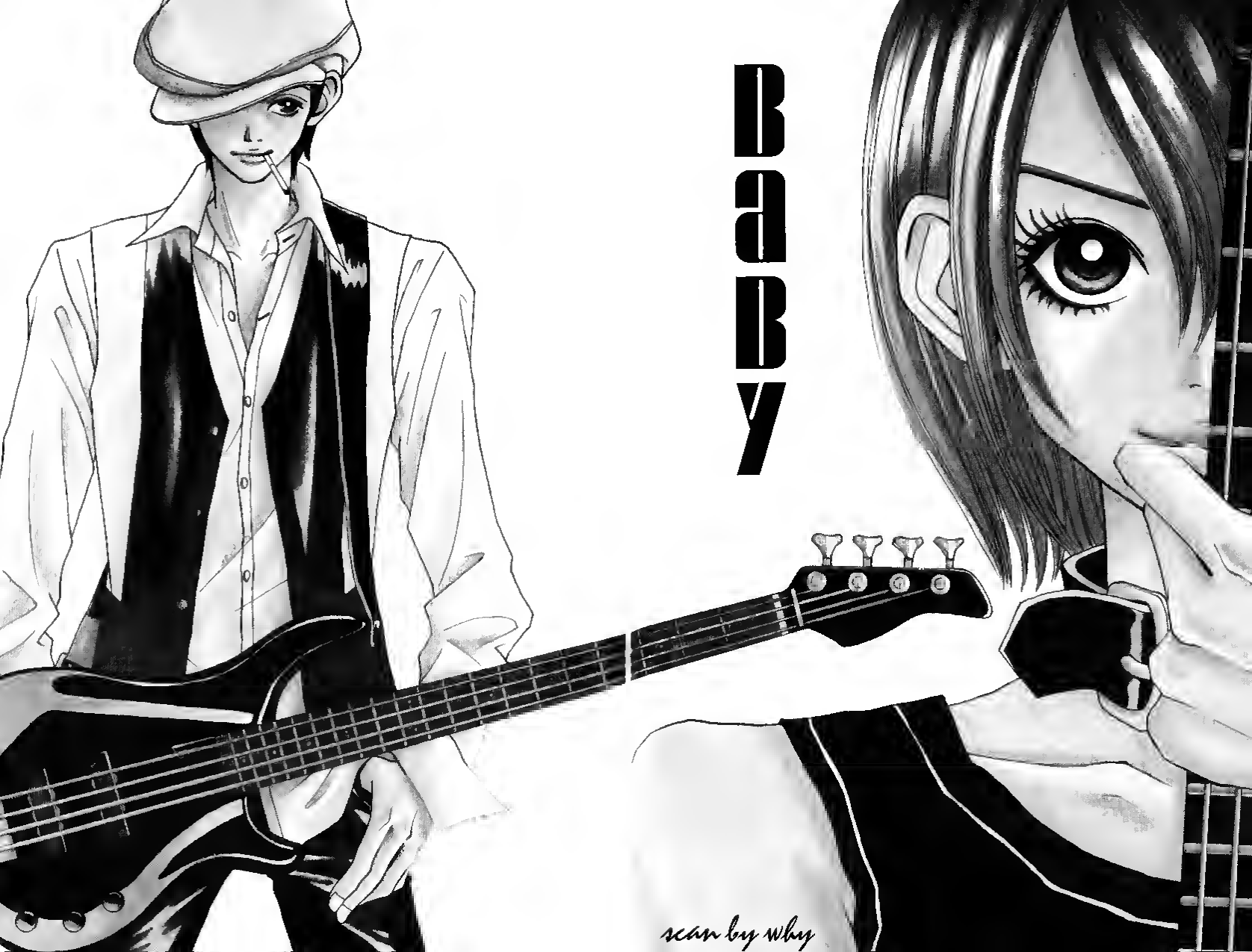

HE WAS ALWAYS SO COOL. I COULDN'T IMAGINE HIM BEING WEAK LIKE THAT.
BUT I JUST COULDN'T TELL HER, BECAUSE THEN SHE'D KNOW WHERE I'D GONE.
I KNEW NAOMICHI WAS THINKING ABOUT SHU.


...if they ever met up again...
...they'd never let each other go.
I felt bad for Shu, though. She never had a steady relationship after that.
She was never happy.
So I knew that...

My friend told me what happened. I totally forgot Shu had a twin brother!
Sorry, OK?
Keep it on the down low!
Just now, when we were talking...
...he told me not to tell Shu about that night.
Guys are like that.
We don't want to show our weaknesses.
He should tell her.
No.
He wants to be cool in front of Shu.
Especially when we like a girl.
Well, when you showed me your weaknesses...
...I thought you were cool.


Miki knew!
If you really loved me, you would have known!
How was I supposed to know it was your brother in makeup?!
He was wearing a wig even!
His makeup was awesome.
I even told him he was beautiful
You never
And I asked him to go to a hotel
Forget about it already!
Don't worry. You're the only one for me.
I am?
Ever since we met.
I've been totally stuck on you.


You've got my heart.
And everything else.
Even though I've slept with about 100 people...
For real.
For real?
...including guys.
I don't wanna hear it!!
It's cool.
The number won't go up anymore.
I love you, Shu! ♡
REAL LOVE ♥ END
scan by why


Baby
scan by why

The reason why I started playing guitar is... I can do it alone.
And I don't mind singing in public.
When I'm between jobs, I can make some money this way.
I don't make much, though.
Uh-oh. Dunno if I can make rent this month.
Need to pick up more hours at work
Bravo! ♡
You play good for a girl.
Got my attention, anyway

Thanks.
How about a few bucks, then?
Well... your songs are missing love.
Huh?
scan by why
What kinda talk is that?!
Is this thing here your amplifier?
It's not mine. Someone left it there.
THUNK
ドカ!
Here, I'm gonna borrow it for a sec.
Huh?

What are you, some sort of pro?
Whoa...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. HE'S GOOD.
But...
Um... kind of.
Hey...
...you wanna play together for a little bit?
Something upbeat

This is great! ♡
This's cool!
Wow!
Check out all the people.
"I HAVEN'T FELT THIS GOOD FOR A WHILE."
"HM?"
"WEREN'T YOU ENJOYING YOURSELF BEFORE?"
"HUH?"
I DO ENJOY IT.
I LIKE DOING IT, SO THERE'S NO REASON *NOT* TO ENJOY IT, BUT...
Huh?
It's gone!

Oh.
I thought I put it right here.
Sweaty
まぎれもなく
男の背中
Man Back
Who's this?!
Oh!
Good morning, baby! ♡
What's going on?
どーなってんの
I mean
Hey! Where are your clothes?
Don't you remember?
This is my place.
We went bar-hopping last night with the money we made.
It was your idea to come back here.
What?!
I guess you...
...don't remember making love all night?

Nice butt!
SWIP
ARGH!
THWAP
Get your clothes on!
And stop ogling me!
I guess...
...it's a weird thing to say *now*, but...
...don't give me any crap about "love," OK? It's annoying.
What do you mean annoying? You're still a teenager, right?
I might be young, but I've been around.
I know how the world works.
So you should really...

I have a name. It's Kin.
Don't forget me, Hikari.
SMOOCH
...leave
Bye, then.
I'll look for you in the same place! ♡
CHAK
...
Oh, and...
KA-CHAK
GURK
Clean up your room, huh?
The only place to sleep was next to you.
But it was fun. Thanks!

CHAK
Damn it!
You're no neat freak! You sleep naked!
DONK
Ah ha ha! ♡
...
Actually, he's right.
Oh, well
I just don't feel like doing anything these days.
Don't
I HAVEN'T WRITTEN ANY NEW SONGS...
GRINKLE
CHIPS
Huh?
Oh, his ring.
He must've forgotten it

GLANCE
GLANCE
No one's ever kissed my cheek before.
He's not here. The liar!
Are you also looking for that guy?
Yeah
What guy?
I heard he shows up around here to scout new talent.
Makes me nervous! But I need a big break.
Hey, don't waste your time dreaming.
Anyway ...
...I just wanna sing. That's all.
Oh, really?
I heard you recorded some stuff at a studio.

You've gotten that far, but you still play the streets, huh?
あはは AH HA HAI
Maybe you should start selling your body instead.
Since you're a runaway, without a high school diploma, you'll *never* get a decent job!
What the hell are *you* out here for anyway?
You think you can play? A car engine sounds better than you guys!
What?!
Shut it, dipshit.
Watch your mouth, bitch!
ボコ
THUD
You shouldn't hit girls.
OW...

Who the hell are you?
You wanna rumble?
Why not? You're the one who'll get hurt.
scan by why
Say what?
Yah!!
WHAM
Ung!
KICK
Hyah!!
Kick his ass!
Hold on!
I'm gonna kill him!
Are you stupid?!

They would've wiped the floor with you, tough guy!
ice pack
You know it's weird. I used to be called "The Rock."
How long ago was that?
More like "The Marshmallow"
I mean... it's a good thing I was there.
Who asked you? I could've taken them myself.
Girls shouldn't talk like that.
You're like a stubborn little kitten.
At least I got you out of trouble.
Kitten?
"Don't Need Love," huh?

He saw my score?!
So you..
I don't need it!
You crossed out the title.
I can survive without love.
This kitten's tough
When I was sixteen, I left home 'cuz I got sick of my parents not caring about me.
I learned music from this sleazy guy who chased every skirt he saw.
I stole his guitar and ran away. That was three years ago. I've been on my own ever since.

There's no such thing as love.
I'm better off alone.
Is that so?
You said you didn't want my help.
All right. So ditch this miserable old guy and go home.

Don't make that face, baby.
So, why are you still here?
It makes me wanna kiss—

I thought you couldn't move
You seem fine now!
Oh.
I got better!
That was to say thanks.
ガバッ!!
WHOOSH
You got hurt, because of me.
Wait, baby!
Hey...
Will you be here tomorrow, too?

Yeah.
I'll be here tomorrow, the day after that and the day after—
Don't come on rainy days, though, 'cuz I won't be here.
BLEAH!!
OK, OK!
Can't you just say "every day"?
SAME PLACE...

Nah, not yet.
You gonna play?
Same time...
Nothing's changed. It's a normal evening ...
...but now I've got Kin here.
Geez, he's really here every day.
Doesn't he have work or something?
OK! First song today...
What is this feeling?
Damn it. Not again.

You're clumsy.
Let me fix it.
What? Why are you staring at me?
Staring? Me?
Yeah, you.
You're the one who stares at me!
Nah.
Not today. ♡
I thought we could get a bite to eat, but never mind.
Oh. If you're going to the store, will you get me a pack of cigarettes?
I'm not your errand boy!!

Need money?
Let's go together.
All night.
I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING.

Uh, I was bored.
I knew it! He doesn't have a job
What?!!
Why are you so early?
Doesn't sound like something you'd write...
AGH!!
I don't know if it's new...
...or experimental, or what...
?
Is that a new song?
...but when I finish, I'll let you hear it first.
You won't be able to tell me there's no "love" in my music anymore.

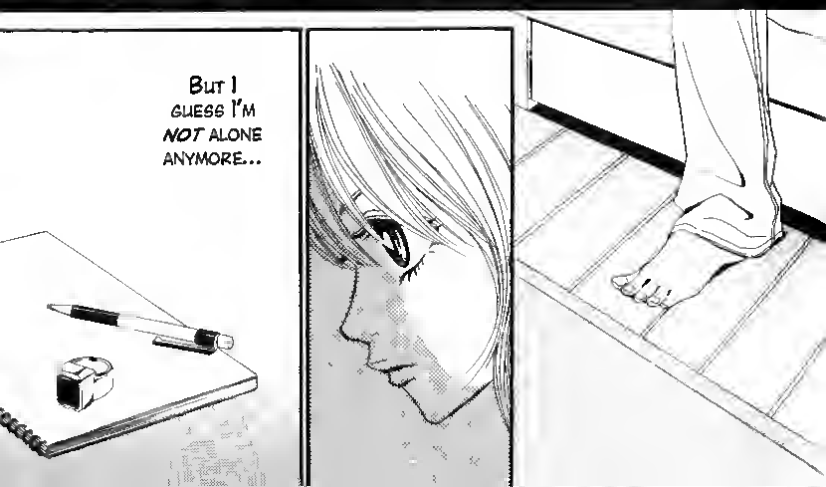
This ring is too big for her.
Why does she keep it? What she's gonna do with it?
With the front moving in from the north...
...heavy rain and flash flood warnings are in effect.
CLICK
PSSHHH
PSSHHH
Don't be silly, baby.
But I can't go out in *this*!
Damn! I really wanted to play today.
FLOP

But I don't wanna look weak.
If I stop pretending to be strong, I can't live alone anymore.
I wanna see him.
Guess I can't see him today.

Even if I like a song and sing it again and again, it won't satisfy me.

It's not enough, though, is it?

Music is the only thing that keeps me going.



How much longer do I have to wait, Mitamura?
...WHEN I FEEL WEAK.
NOT IF THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN PROTECT ME...
Sorry, Boss. I need a little more time.
I trust you. Don't let me down.
And don't forget the other things you've got to take care of.
MEETING ROOM
KA-CHAK
PSSHHH
PSSHHH
"Other things"... huh?

That's nuts! You're gonna ruin your guitar.
Just leave it here
Um... yeah, maybe.
You're not gonna play today, are you?
Sorry for making you come out in the rain.
You can work tomorrow, right?
Sure!
I guess...
TCHI
PSSHHHH
...BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR THREE DAYS NOW.
I KNOW HE WON'T BE THERE...
Yeah, right. Who would go out in this weather?

I was here yesterday and the day before, too.
I thought you didn't like me anymore...
I would!
YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME, EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW I WOULDN'T BE HERE?
I told you I don't play when it rains!

Well, I kept hearing a lonely kitten crying.
I can hear it right now, too.
I'm not crying!
REN
You don't have to pretend for me.
I GUESS NOT. I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING ANYMORE.
I CAN SHOW HIM EVERY SIDE OF ME.
I finished the song.
What?
Your new song...
I was gonna bring my guitar.
...do you have it with you right now?

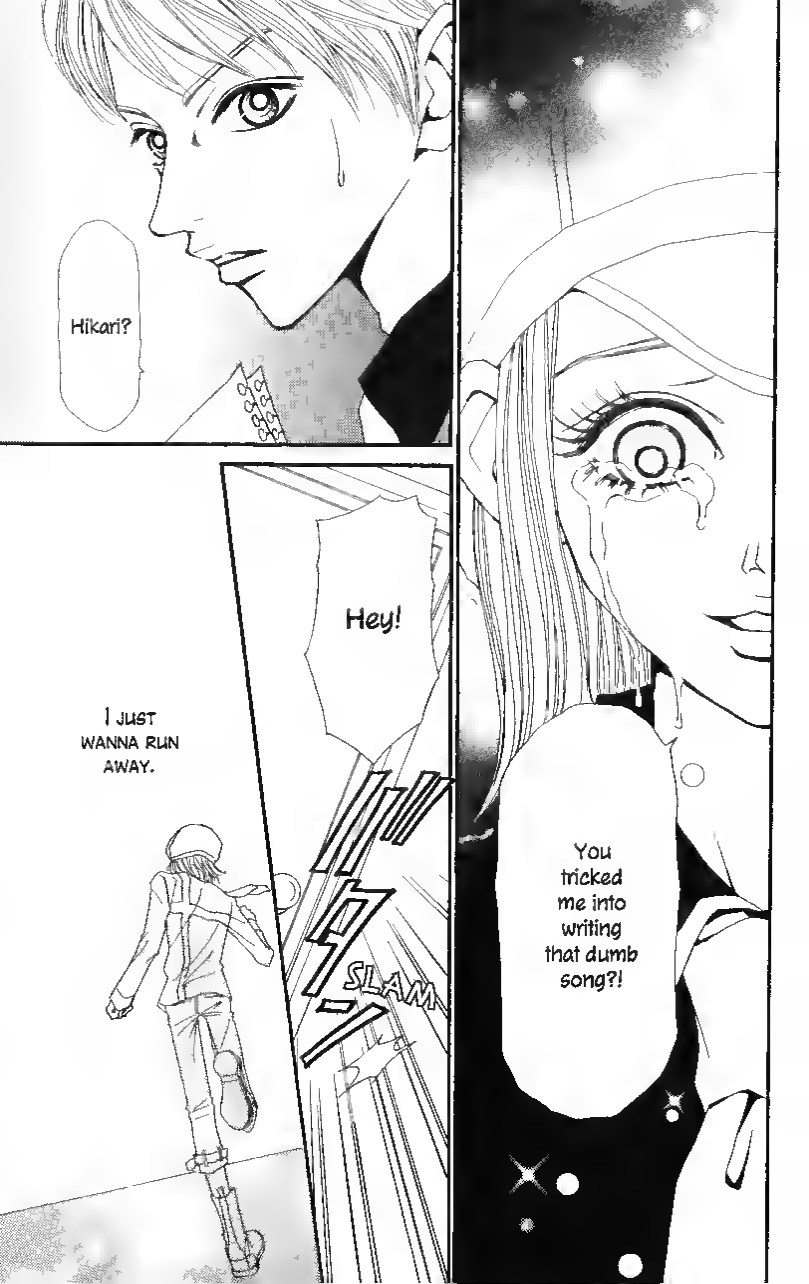
WHY...?
scan by Why
Yes?
Hikari!
JUMP
THE WHOLE SONG IS ABOUT...
PSSHHH
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO NERVOUS!
What?! What do you mean?!
Until then, I'll hang onto your score.
I'll give you a call on your cell in the next few days.
Hey...

I never told him my number.
And I don't have his, either.
FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, I DIDN'T SEE HIM.
...? MY CELL PHONE?
Keep your phone on, OK?
Just a little kiss?!
Why was I so nervous?
ONE NIGHT, THERE WAS A MISSED CALL ON MY PHONE.
I don't get it.

OK.
Please, have a seat. The manager will be right down.
MUSIC
EMM
ミュージック
It wasn't from Kin.
Why now?
But this is my chance...
I sent these guys some demos months ago...
...and none of those songs were that good.
Maybe I can play my new song for them.
Look!
That's the girl Mitamura was working with.
Man, how does he get these chicks?
You know his technique...
She's young. It must've been easy to bag her.
Right
Shhh!
Young?!
Hey, how ya doin'?
?

We reviewed your song "Baby."
非常にいい曲です！
We liked it
KIN!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
Mitamura probably already told you...
...he was interested in your demo tape.
You must be Hikari Asami. I'm Suzuki, we spoke last night. Nice to meet you.

I SEE.
May I talk to her alone for a second?
Ms. Asami?
I'm sorry I didn't tell you about this.
But...
I UNDER-STAND.
You tricked me. This whole time.
If I'd told you who I was, you wouldn't have trusted me.
I knew when I heard your tape...
...that you needed to sing from your *heart*.


Hikari?
You tricked me into writing that dumb song?!
Hey!
I JUST WANNA RUN AWAY.
SLAM

I've been dreaming of a love that would protect me.
About someone who cares about me.
About a warm chest to lean against.
And a big hand to lead me.
Kin was everything I wanted!
Please open the door!
Get lost!
I don't wanna see your face. Go away!
...did I leave it here?
CLENCH
My ring...
Hikari!
RATTLE
RATTLE

scan by ulny

SLAM
バタン!
KA-CHAK
ガチャ
Hey...
If you don't wanna be near me, someone else can talk business with you.
TAK
TINK
No...
Don't you wanna be a professional?
...DON'T PUSH ME AWAY.
By the way, I never touched you the night I stayed here.
DON'T TAKE IT AWAY...

You kissed me! Why *was* that?
DON'T TELL ME IT WAS ALL A LIE!
WHY?
If you'll just open the door, I'll *tell* you why.
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
Otherwise, I'll leave.
Wait!
KA-CHAK

KA-CHAK
...were because I love you.
WHAT?
The kisses...
It's true. I started out just scouting you...
...but then I was interested in who you were. I wanted to get close to you.
I didn't mean to trick you.
I *am* a professional, though...
...so I had to keep some distance between us.

Kin...
I knew the song was a hit, so I ran back to work.
Then I saw the song you wrote and realized how you felt.
But you're so damn cute!
I tried to push you away, but you kept following me.
Kin
If we'd been here when I saw that score, I would've told you all of this sooner.
You made me want to be with you always.
ANOTHER LIE?
No, IT'S NOT A LIE.
I want more than a kiss.
I was supposed to be working on your music, but all I could think about was you.

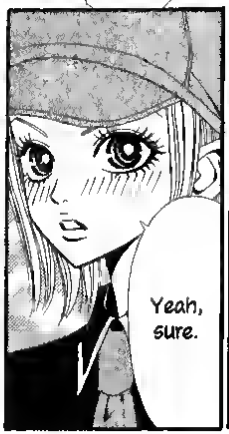
My body and mind are bare
It's all out there... vulnerable.
Ooh...
Kin...
But I can trust him.
If you keep doing it like that...
Are you close?
Huh, my sweet kitten? ♡

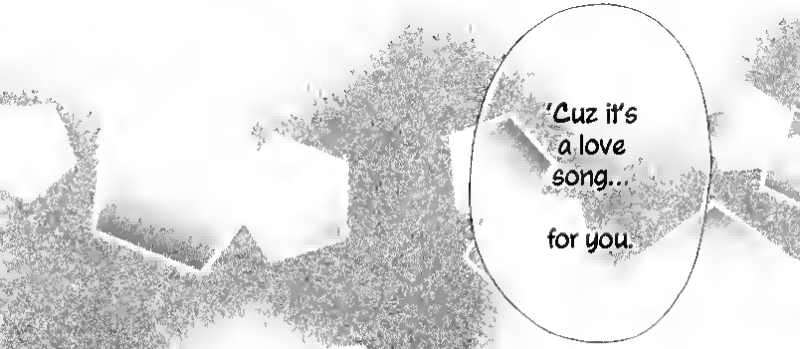
Some women go for it.
No cheating!
Who says I will?
Trust me!
He's so good at this!
I can see how you've persuaded other girls.
How could I? When I've got you...
...the girl who kept my ring this whole time.
When I picked it up...
...it was hot. Just like you.
Uhn...

THE TRUTH IS... I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE.
Uhn!
Uhn...
TREMBLE
Oh...
BUT IF KIN REALLY UNDERSTANDS ME...
Yes...
...I DON'T EVER HAVE TO BE ALONE AGAIN.

♪ BABY ♪♫

♪ SO MANY PEOPLE IN THIS CITY,
AND NO ONE TO HOLD THIS HOMELESS KITTY
HER CRY IS LOST BEHIND CONCRETE WALLS
♫ SHE CAN'T MOVE ON, CAN'T GROW UP
BECAUSE SHE'S STILL WAITING FOR LOVE
"BABY," SOMEONE CALLS ME
♪ HE SEES MY LONELY HEART ♫
HE TAKES ME IN HIS ARMS
"BABY," IT'S NOT ENOUGH
I WANT IT ALL, EVERY BIT OF YOU ♪
GIVE ME LOVE, REPLACE THE LONELINESS
♫ AND WHEN I GROW UP, STAY WITH ME ♪





BABY ♥ END

scan by why

Love
star
scan by why

KA-CHAK
カチャ
You're here *again*.
Oh!
Hikari!
Your name means "light," right?
How bright are you? Let me turn you on!
Huh?
Are you drunk?
Let me smell your breath
I'm always like this!
?
?
Mm...
Here...
...kiss me and find out. ♡

STRIP!!
Huuuuh?!
Take your clothes off!
URK
I'll take your temperature.
Here, put these on.
My PJs!
We're playing doctor?
What's the rush?
ドキドキワクワク
TH-THUMP BA-DMP
If I were you, I'd be in bed too
You're not fine, you're sick.
I'm fine.
TSK
No one's ever cared when it's been that high before.
No one...
39.2℃
I thought so...
Well I do!
COUGH
ケホ!

I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT LOVE.
...WHO SAW ME PLAYING GUITAR ON A STREET CORNER.
HE'S THE ONE...
I guess so.
UNTIL HE TAUGHT ME.
Ugh...
...HE ALWAYS GIVES IT TO ME. HE'S SO NICE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I ASK FROM HIM...
Will you hold me?
Huh?
Kin?
Oh, sorry. Did I wake you?
Looks like your fever's gone down.
よかった
That's good
Sure.
HE'S SO SWEET AT HOME...

GULP
ゴクッ…
EM
ミュー
But...
Kin!
Call me Mr. Mitamura at work.
OK, then. Mr. Mitamura?
What is it? I'm really busy right now.
Ask your manager about it!
TAK
TAK

I GUESS THERE'D BE A SCANDAL IF THEY FOUND OUT THE TALENT SCOUT WAS BANGING THE NEW TALENT...
BUT STILL...
...HE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AT HOME!
Does he really have to act so differently at work?
TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK
Hey!
wh wh
Are you two... dating? ♡
Who said so?!
You two must be really close for you to call him by his first name.
Manager
I've been here for two years and he barely talks to me
DON'T TELL ANYONE AT WORK ABOUT US.
Thump thump
...
PAT PAT
Like 10 years older or something?
Just kidding.
He's way too old for you, right?

WHICH ONE IS THE REAL KIN?
It's hard to believe he's the same person
Hikari?
Geez back off
Are you falling asleep?
Must've been a late night!
Hikari?
Huh? Yes?
DAMN! FORGOT I WAS ON CAMERA.
By the way...
...your debut song is still topping the charts...
...but it's been awhile since the release.
Any plans for a new single soon?

Oh, hey
I haven't seen you in a long time. Babysitting the new talent?
Well, try to stay cool, especially in the summer heat!
OK, let's hit the stage!
No...
Not right now.
I've got a full concert schedule this summer.
No. I've got another appointment on site.
EMM is a real hit factory.
You're the one who found that girl, right?
Yeah.

?
I'd better not.
Hey. You're not gonna stick around?
OK! Here we go!
Here's "Baby" by Hikari Asami!
Thinking, huh? About work, right?
Right?
KIN?!
Hikari, don't space out on camera.
The producer was pissed.
I wasn't spacing! It was thinking!
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
Good job, everyone!
Good show.
TV7

He never calls me while I'm at work!
Hello?
It's me...
Yeah? What's up?
Don't come over to my apartment tonight.
What do you mean don't come over?
VROOM
I mean don't come over!
Bye!
What?
Wait!
Kin!
Click
BEEEP
BEEEP
BEEEP
Hey, hurry up!
We've got that music magazine interview next.
After that, there's a photo shoot.

I know, I know!
Come on, you've gotta take this seriously! This is your career!
WHY IS HE SO IN MY FACE ABOUT THIS?
TIPTOE ささ
TIPTOE さっ!
?
506
MITAN
I COME OVER ALMOST EVERY NIGHT.

If I wanted to, I could go in.
I've even got a spare key.
But...
KA-CHAK
Why are you sneaking around?
Huh?
HE'S NOT ACTING NORMAL.
Um... I was...
Don't just stand there. Come in.
Oh. Sure.

So, when you said I couldn't come over tonight...
...was it because you had work to do?
Nah.
I never work at home.
Really?
What are you doing here, anyway?
What do you mean...
...what am I doing here?

Can't I be here?
Do I need a *reason*?
I'm your *girlfriend*!
I...
I'm under a lot of pressure.
I want you to *do it* to me!

You didn't even need any foreplay?
BLUSH
Uhn!
Mm...
...mn!
Uhn...
I'M LIKE A STRAY CAT.
Uhn...!
Uhn!
Uhn!

Uhhn ...
...nn!
Uhn!
But how else...
...can I show him how I feel about him?
Oh!

What?
All better now?
I WISH HE COULD UNDERSTAND ME.
You said you were stressed.
SMACK

バタン
SLAM
Why doesn't he get it?!
Oh, well.

THWK
ASSHOLE!
Baby
Baby...
Wanna hit a bar with me?
You want some company?
Wow, you're really chugging that!
BURP
I LIKE HIM...
Hey isn't she ?
I think so!
...MORE THAN I CAN STAND!
GLARE
Just leave me alone!
Go away!

I WANT HIM TO FEEL THE SAME WAY. I WANT HIM TO LIKE ME JUST AS MUCH.
BUT I DON'T...
...KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN HE ACTS LIKE THAT.
I'M SO LONELY.
This isn't good, Hikari.

You can't behave this way in public.
Uh-oh!
If we hadn't caught this picture first...
...it would've gotten to the press. Underage drinking and smoking are bad publicity.
You're lucky we got ahold of this!
Meeting Room
The media is already watching you.
GLANCE
GLANCE
Even in *private*...
...you have no idea who's watching

WHY WON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?
You need to be more professional and aware of your image.
DON'T IGNORE ME!
SAY SOMETHING!
Huh
Gimme a break!
These days, that kind of behavior will just make me more popular!
You take care of it!
Hey, Mitamura! We're not finished!
I don't have time to waste on lazy punks!
FLINCH
CHAK!

KA-CHAK
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
Why?!
BAM!
Hikari!
Why are you being so mean?
You're the one who got me into the music business.
And I'm sorry I did!

But...
...that's how we met.
Um ...
I...

SOB
SOB
SOB
GLARE
Scary
SLAM
scan by why
But you're a gem that shines in the light.
...just any stone off the street.
I would never pick up...
But if I keep hanging on to you...
...so that you can shine only with me...
What?
My job was to be your light.

KIN...
If I clutch that gem too tightly, will it ever shine on its own?

Hey, are you all right?
No...
KA-CHAK
Geez, he didn't have to *shout*. He should be more professional.
He's the one who scouted her. If she's a bust, then...
...he loses his credibility as a talent scout.
I can see why he's mad
No!
Shut up!
Don't talk about Mr. Mitamura that way!
IT'S NOT HIM, IT'S ME. I DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO SEE IT HIS WAY.

He did all this for me...
Where is he?
Because of him, I'm a success.
That's why he acts like a jerk sometimes.
He's been hiding his feelings.
VWOOSH
And what have I been doing?

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
Where did you find that?
Hey...
I need to tell you something.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I want you to listen to me carefully.
RUSTLE
I WAS JUST BEING SELFISH. I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH I WANT HIM.
Here...

I'm gonna take some time and write some new songs.
With no light from the inside.
If I keep it, I won't be able to stop myself from going to your place
And then I'll just be a stone.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO TELL HIM HOW I FEEL.
Then I'll really shine.
I see.
Sorry for leaning on you all this time.

I don't wanna lose you.
I guess I was too scared to go on without you.
I couldn't think about anything else.
Same here...
When you're lonely, I'm lonely, too.
But I guess... I'm more grown up than you.
And if my little light can shine on her own, I can deal with it.

What?
Come here.
TUG TUG
Mmpf!
...
Actually, it's pretty easy to hide from people.
CHEW

You know I always want you! ♡
I'm ready for you anytime, anywhere.
RIGHT NOW, I MAY BE A TINY LIGHT, A LITTLE GEM. BUT SOMEDAY... I'LL BE THE BRIGHTEST STAR.
You're just too cute.
Oh really?
Yeah. I love you. ♡
CHUCKLE
Huh? ね!?
Why are you laughing?
HA HA!
LOVE STAR ♥ END